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ILLINOIS

# STATE

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## Kudos to the Coach

Brock Spack's plan and patience  
have elevated Redbird football.

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# FirstWord

## As I reflect on my first full academic year

as Illinois State University's 19th president, I recall one of my first days on the job and an interview with a reporter from our student newspaper, the *Vidette*. The reporter remarked that I had ascended to the presidency rapidly, having been appointed after serving less than three years as vice president for Student Affairs.



For a moment, I felt like a very young man again. That was, until I had to confess I have actually served in public higher education for more than four decades in many different roles and at several institutions.

But in a very real sense, the reporter was right. That day everything felt new, fresh and exciting. Fourteen months later, it still does. Each day, I feel honored and humbled to serve as your president. My wife, Marlene, and I are grateful for your expressions of support and friendship.

For me, this past year seems like a microcosm of the University's history. Over the last 158 years, Illinois State has celebrated times of unrivaled success and endured periods of seemingly overwhelming challenge. Similarly, over the past 14 months, the people of Illinois State have raised their arms in triumph and bowed their heads in sorrow.

Last August, ISU welcomed the largest and most diverse freshman class in 25 years. We celebrated advancing to number 74 in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings of best national public universities. We congratulated our students on posting an 81.3 percent retention rate and a 71.8 percent graduation rate, placing ISU in the top 10 percent of all U.S. universities. We cheered as our student athletes led the Redbirds to three Missouri Valley Conference championships.

Conversely, we braced for the potentially severe budgetary impacts of a teetering state economy. We wept in mourning for two students who left us much too soon. We witnessed each moment together—a campus of more than 23,000 and an extended alumni family 200,000 strong. And we held to our traditions that strengthen our sense of community and focus on individualized attention.

Earlier this month, more than 3,000 students crossed the stage during two days of commencement ceremonies. All graduates will transition to new successes and challenges, better equipped through their ISU experience to be engaged citizens of this complex global society.

Meanwhile, we will use the summer months to prepare for our new and returning students. My hope is that the ISU experience will be for them as it remains for me—new, fresh and exciting.

Larry Dietz  
President, Illinois State University



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*





# Illinois State's Then & Now Quiz

**THE RESULTS**

12



## What's trending on STATEside



The 7 biggest days in Illinois State history



Historic photos show life at Watterson, then and now



Modeling career awaits business student after graduation

Read these stories and more at [IllinoisState.edu/STATEside](http://IllinoisState.edu/STATEside)

# ILLINOIS STATE

Volume 15, Number 4, May 2015

## FEATURES

### 8 Redefining fast food

As a retired executive of McDonald's, Mike Donahue '80 knows the fast food industry. He also knows more Americans want not just speed but a healthy meal reasonably priced. Donahue helped provide just that with the creation of LYFE Kitchen. The casual restaurant chain is built on a simple motto: Eat Good. Feel Good. Do Good.

### 12 Survey says...

Responses to a questionnaire in the November issue of *Illinois State* are in, providing answers to what was popular during a specific era. Students once packed typewriters. Today it's a laptop or tablet. Pub II has replaced the Cage as a gathering spot. You may be surprised by what has changed in seven decades.

### 14 Fruits of his labor

Brock Spack took over the football team in 2009, confident that the program had the potential to soar. Spack's work and vision have resulted in a 46-26 record the past six seasons. School records have been set and celebrated, including ISU's first appearance at the FCS National Championship game this past season.

### 19 Making it all work

With an enrollment right at 20,000, Illinois State is comparable to a small city. It takes much more than teaching positions to keep the campus operating smoothly so that students can excel. Jobs outside the classroom—including the campus herder—are often overlooked yet crucial to the University's daily operation.

## DEPARTMENTS

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- 30 Class notes

**On the cover:** Coach Spack expects the Redbirds will continue a winning tradition on the football field this fall and beyond.



## Gladly he teaches

Professor reaches milestone with longest ISU faculty career

**W**ib Leonard first stepped into the classroom to teach as a graduate student in 1967. He took one look at the students, set his books down, and walked to the water cooler down the hall.

"I thought to myself, 'How am I ever going to pull this off?'" recalled Leonard, who has just completed his 45th year of teaching at ISU.

"They tell me of the current faculty, no one has been here longer," he said. Leonard came to Illinois State at the age of 26 after earning his doctorate in sociology at The Ohio State University.

"There was no Bone Student Center, no Milner Library or sports complexes," he recalled.

Leonard has taught social psychology, statistics and a sociology of sports class he developed. That led to the textbook *A Sociological Perspective of Sport*, now in its sixth edition. The book has been adopted more than 200 times at colleges and universities across the nation.

Reflecting on his career, Leonard sees the key to his longevity as finding the perfect balance in academia. "I've always just enjoyed the writing, the teaching and the research," he said, and especially the students.

Even after 45 years of teaching, Leonard still gets that flutter of anxiety when facing a new class. "There is that little bit of extra energy every fall, when things are first starting. I'm a little bit

curious, wondering how it will go, even to this day," he said.

"Looking back, there is almost a time warp. In a way, it doesn't matter if it's September of 2014 or September of 1974, there is still the same excitement, same worries, same hopes with students."

And yet he has seen one significant change over the years.

"When I first came, I was not that much older than the seniors. Years go by and I am their parents' age. More years go by and I am their grandparents' age," he said with a laugh. Leonard has seen his four children graduate from Illinois State, and now he has grandchildren the same age as many ISU students.



## Student named ISU's first Gates Millennium Scholar

Dyrell Ashley is the first Illinois State student ever to be chosen by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as a Gates Millennium Scholar. A biology teacher education major from Chicago, he is one of 1,000 students to be awarded a scholarship through graduation.

"Everything from room and board to books and tuition is covered," said Ashley, who has completed his freshman year at ISU.

The Gates program provides outstanding African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American and Hispanic American students with an opportunity to complete an undergraduate education.

Scholars must be first-time college students who have excelled academically and demonstrated leadership abilities. Continuing scholars may request funding for a graduate degree program in one of seven disciplines, including education. "If I go on for a doctorate, then that means 10 years of college costs covered, which is amazing," Ashley said.

## Kiplinger's recognizes ISU for its outstanding value

The University is ranked as one of the best values in public colleges in the country, according to *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine. Illinois State is 99th on the list and one of only two public institutions in Illinois cited. The other is the University of Illinois.

"Illinois State is a first-choice institution for academically talented students," President Larry Dietz said. "The inclusion in *Kiplinger's* best values listing highlights the University's high academic quality and affordable price. Those factors have placed Illinois State in good company with many of the nation's most prestigious universities."

*Kiplinger's* assesses quality according to measurable standards that include admission rate, percentage of students who return for their second year, student-faculty ratio and four-year gradu-



Biology teacher education major Dyrell Ashley is ISU's first Gates Millennium scholar.

ation rate. Other criteria include tuition and fees, financial aid and average debt at graduation.

## Campus mourns loss of theatre program pioneer

Cal Pritner, who founded the Illinois State Shakespeare Festival, lost his battle with brain cancer in December at the age of 79. He was also founding chair of the Theatre Department, partnering with John Kirk and the late Jean Scharfenberg and Ralph Lane to forge the stellar program.

Pritner helped inspire myriad students, including John Malkovich '76, Laurie Metcalf '76 and two who went on to found Chicago's legendary Steppenwolf Theatre: Jeff Perry '78 and Terry Kinney '76.

Beyond Illinois State, Pritner taught at the University of Missouri in Kansas city, the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre and the California State Summer School for the Arts. He retired from ISU in 1990 and made New York City his home.

Pritner was a Fellow of the American Theatre and acted in several one-person shows, including his own production of "Mark Twain Travelling."

He is survived by his wife, Evamarie Johnson, a daughter and son, and three grandchildren. An endowment will be established in his name. Memorials may be made to the Illinois Shakespeare Society online at [IllinoisState.edu/giving](http://IllinoisState.edu/giving) or by calling (309) 438-8041. This year's Shakespeare Festival season will be dedicated to his memory.

## Dining Services praised as among best in country

The education-ranking firm Niche has placed Illinois State among the top campus dining facilities in the country. Dining Services ranked at 101 among nearly 1,200 dining facilities surveyed, earning an "A" rating.

The ranking comes in the Best Campus Food category based on results of surveying 1,175 colleges for meal plan cost. More than 470,000 opinions from

## Where are they now?

While an undergraduate studying mathematics and economics at Illinois State, Virginia Owen '62 never envisioned she would return as faculty and make the University her home for more than three decades.

Owen completed her master's and doctorate at the University of Illinois after graduating from ISU. She was offered a substitute teaching position in the Department of Economics in 1964.

"I stayed the second year and never left," said Owen, who is a member of College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame. She loved teaching, even in the large Capen Auditorium setting. She led students through an introduction to economics, and money and banking classes.

Her career included administrative work as well, beginning as chair of the Economics Department in 1976. She served three years before being asked to lead the college as dean.

"It was all very interesting and challenging," Owen said. There were consecutive and deep budget cuts during her 11 years guiding the college. "The only way to get back funding was to have a new degree program, so I made sure we had a lot of new degree programs."

Before retiring in 1998, Owen returned to the department as director of an Economics Education Program. In that role she traveled the state, training elementary and middle school teachers in ways to incorporate economic principles with minimal math. Upon leaving the department, she continued to teach a class at ISU and Illinois Wesleyan, building courses around her research interests: economics of the arts and the economics of war and terrorism.

Now fully retired, Owen remains in Bloomington where she is active in the church, enjoys spending time with her three sons and grandchild, and travels extensively. She can be reached at [vlowen@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:vlowen@IllinoisState.edu).



64,000 students were gathered, along with data sourced from the U.S. Department of Education.

The rating indicates the college offers a variety of healthy, quality food options that accommodate various dietary preferences; and that students are happy with the food. The survey also considered the convenience of hours of operation and meal plan costs.

This is the first time Illinois State has been included in the Niche ranking. The University earned the highest ranking of any public institution in the state of Illinois.

### Dietz seeking increased international exchanges

Noting that increasing the number of international faculty and staff at ISU literally brings the world to campus, President Larry Dietz is working to strengthen bonds with foreign universities.

Efforts are underway with Brazil, Panama and Saudi Arabia. Mexico and Central and South America are

ideal options, as extensive travel is not required.

Dietz is also looking further distances. An agreement with Wuhan University in China has been signed to seal faculty and student exchanges that will result in joint research and shared academic material.

ISU seeks to double the number of students who study abroad within the next five years, while also increasing the number of foreign students on the University campus. There are on average 400 students who study abroad annually, with about 2 percent of the campus enrollment made up of international students.

### National excellence in nursing online courses

Menonite College of Nursing has one of the Best Online Nursing Programs according to *U.S. News & World Report*. This is the first time the University has been ranked in the survey. ISU is 93rd

and is the only public institution in Illinois named.

"We are pleased to be recognized nationally for our online Nursing Systems Administration Program," Acting Dean H. Catherine Miller said. "We have outstanding faculty members who are experts in online teaching, and we have a commitment to prepare outstanding nurses to lead in an era of growth and change."

Schools were ranked in five general categories including student engagement, faculty credentials and training, peer reputation, student services and technology, and admissions selectivity. Other considerations included graduation rate, class size, tenured faculty and student debt.

### Chemist researches tool to improve chemical detection

Associate Professor of Analytical Chemistry Christopher Mulligan is developing cutting-edge instrumentation for chemical detection. The application of his work

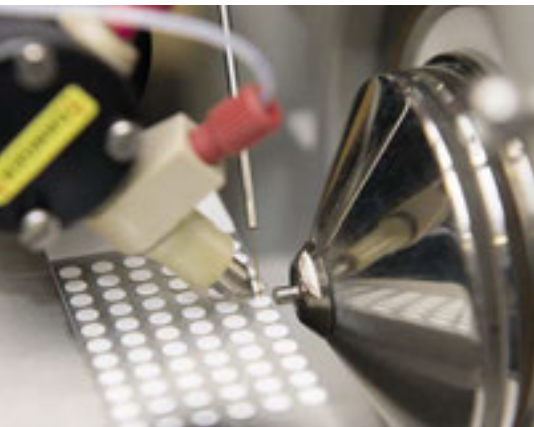
ranges from finding water contaminants to improving crime scene forensics.

One discovery—thermally-assisted desorption electrospray ionization—resulted from a grant-funded project. It tests water samples more quickly than current technology.

“Traditional testing methods for water contaminants involve transporting three or more liters of water per test to an off-site lab for analysis,” said Mulligan, who has two patents for the work. “Our method can take as little as one minute and one milliliter of water.”

He is also researching cutting-edge tools for use in crime scene investigations through funding from the National Institute of Justice. His work involves developing portable mass spectrometers that allow chemical identification of evidence found in any form.

“This new technology would allow evidence screening to occur rapidly right at a crime scene, expediting criminal investigations and assessing potential public safety concerns,” Mulligan



Thermally-assisted desorption electrospray ionization allows rapid analysis of water samples with mass spectrometry.

explained. It could also be beneficial in homeland security monitoring, according to Mulligan, who is exploring other potential patents in forensic chemical analysis.

## Retired faculty meet goal, give department \$1 million

Emeriti faculty and friends from the Department of Technology united in the effort to raise more than \$1 million in endowment funds for the academic program and students have met their goal.

The idea emerged nearly four years ago within a group of departmental friends and retired faculty including Paul Brauchle; Hank Campbell; William LaBounty, M.A. '74; Wayne Lockwood; Franzie Loepp; Ken Stier, Ph.D. '89; Joe Talkington; and former chair Rick Boser.

The men were driven to ensure the department's financial future and create a legacy honoring faculty who laid the foundation for the department's current excellence. Each in the group created and funded named endowments, encouraging others to participate.

As a result, the department now has 22 endowed funds, only five of which are under the \$25,000 threshold. The money raised will fund student activities and scholarships, program enhancements and faculty development.

## NIH funds grad student researching mosquitos

Biological Sciences doctoral student Peter Brabant is the first ISU graduate student to receive a Ruth L. Kirschstein Predoctoral Fellowship from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The award typically goes to students at large research intensive universities.

Brabant is partnering with Distinguished Professor Steven Juliano to study mosquito larval habitats and how they affect production of adults. Brabant's work focuses on the Asian Tiger mosquito, which carries the West Nile virus.

The fellowship allows for four years of support through a graduate stipend and travel funds. Brabant will go throughout Illinois to examine Asian Tiger mosquito aquatic larval habitats.

# Mail

To the Editor,

Thanks to your staff for pursuing the story on Route 66 (Nov. 2014). As a kid growing up in Bloomington, I traveled Route 66 many times. The routing of 66 through town after town is still a vivid memory.

A “well done” goes to ISU alums Terri Ryburn and Fred Walk for helping preserve what is now Historic Route 66 on the road sections that still remain from Chicago to L.A. Their work and that done by others is not in vain and is much appreciated.

During a visit in October to Arizona, I got to be on old 66 from Winslow to Flagstaff, and met a couple from the Netherlands who were on vacation and driving the road from Illinois to California. Thanks for an alumni story that had a dual purpose of revealing a key act of preservation at work.

**Cliff Schrock '81**

To the Editor,

I enjoy reading the magazine, especially seeing old photos. I was interested in the From the Archives photos (Nov. 2014). My response to today's students being “more creative” in converting their dorm rooms is “whaaaaaat!?”

We had enough rules for dorm living that heads would be spinning with this “creative” generation! We had room inspections—no dust and mopped floors. If we didn't pass inspection, we had to clean the laundry room for the week!

We were limited with what could be attached to walls. Furniture was part of the permanent fixtures, so could not be rearranged. We all took care of hall and lounge walls and furniture so all was attractive.

We had “room check” each night at 10:30 weekdays to make sure we were all where we belonged. Not joking! Our class was very creative in many ways, just not in dorm room arrangement.

I have often realized how greatly and positively my ISU dorm experiences and friendships affected my life. I regret nothing.

**Elizabeth (Scheer) Sorensen '67**



# Redbird Athletics



## Legend mourned

Baseball standout loses battle against cancer

**F**ormer baseball All-American and 1980 Percy Family Illinois State Athletics Hall of Fame honoree Dave Bergman '78 died in February at the age of 61.

Bergman rewrote the record books at Illinois State, solidifying his place among the best athletes in the University's history. In three seasons with the Redbirds, Bergman hit .366 with 63 RBIs.

Bergman amassed a .400 batting average in 1973, which ranked No. 28 in the nation that season. Following his sophomore year, he led the prestigious Cape Cod League in hitting with a .342 summer batting average. As a junior in 1974, he was named an All-American out-

fielder by *The Sporting News* after hitting .351 and leading the team in home runs, runs scored, hits and stolen bases.

Drafted by the New York Yankees following his junior season, Bergman won Minor League Player of the Year awards from the National Association of Baseball Writers in both the New York Penn League and the Eastern League in his first two professional seasons.

He amassed a lifetime batting average of .258 in 17 big-league seasons with the New York Yankees, Houston Astros and San Francisco Giants. Bergman was best known for his nine-year career playing for the Detroit Tigers from 1984-1992.

During the 1984 season, he hit .273 with seven home runs and 44 RBIs as a key member of the Tigers' championship team that took the World Series for the first time since 1968. His most notable moment that season was a game-winning home run against the Toronto Blue Jays on June 4 at Tiger Stadium. Bergman fouled off seven pitches. On a full count, he hit the 13th pitch of the at-bat into the upper deck for a walk-off, three-run home run on national television.

He was one of only three players in ISU baseball history to have his number retired. The others were former coach Duffy Bass and Lee "Buzz" Capra. He is survived by his wife, Cathy, and their three children.



## Staff, alums lost in tragic plane accident

The campus community mourned the loss of seven individuals with strong Illinois State and community ties last month. All were killed in an April 7 plane crash that occurred as the group was returning to Bloomington following the NCAA Final Four championship game in Indianapolis.

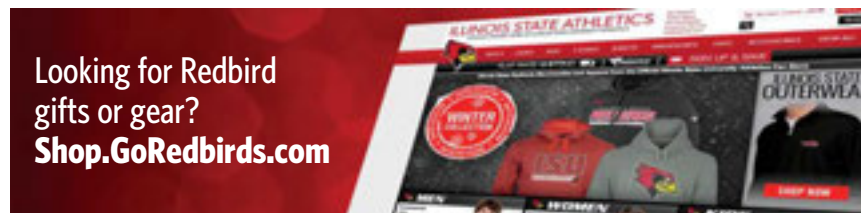
The accident claimed the lives of ISU staff Aaron Leetch, 37, who was deputy director of Athletics for external operations; and Torrey Ward, 36, associate head coach for men's basketball.

Other Redbirds aboard the plane were Pub II co-owner Terry Stralow '74; Andy Butler '96, a national account manager for Sprint/Nextel; and Jason Jones, M.S. '93, senior vice president and invest-

ment officer with Secord-Jones Wealth Management Group.

Loyal Redbird fans Scott Bittner, Eureka Locker Company owner, and pilot Tom Hileman also died when the twin-engine Cessna went down in heavy fog near the airport. The National Transportation Safety Board began an immediate investigation of the crash scene in a soybean field. It will be many months before findings are completed and shared.

The accident happened as this issue of *Illinois State* was on press. Look for additional information in the August magazine. In the interim, go to [IllinoisState.edu/STATESide](http://IllinoisState.edu/STATESide) to find more details about the tragedy that gained national media attention.



## Swimming coach ends stellar career

Steve Paska '83, M.S. '85, decided the past swimming and diving season would be his last as ISU's coach. He retires effective in July after working with more than 300 student-athletes since being named the head women's coach for both sports in 1985.

"After 30 years, it's the right time for me to step down from the position of head coach and allow someone else to take the reins of the program," Paska said. He was a two-time letter winner as a member of the men's swimming and diving team, which folded after the 1981-1982 season. He started with the women's team as a volunteer assistant coach while completing a graduate degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

Under Paska, the Redbirds have taken five Gateway Conference championships, five Midwest Independent titles, and three National Independent crowns. His teams have taken a Missouri Valley Conference championship and were runner-up 11 times. He has been named Coach of the Year seven times by the MVC, Midwest Independent and National Independent.

Student-athletes coached by Paska own all 24 of Illinois State's school-record times. Team members consistently ranked as one of Athletics best-performing teams in the classroom, with a 3.59 grade point average during the spring 2014 semester.

## Football tickets available

See the 2015 Redbird football team at Hancock Stadium as players build on their historic run to the national championship game. Season tickets are available now, and single-game tickets will be available for purchase in mid-July. Make sure to get your tickets for the five home games. The Redbirds look to remain undefeated at home since Hancock Stadium was renovated prior to the 2013 season. Visit [GoRedbirds.com](http://GoRedbirds.com) for the schedule and ticket prices.

## Athletes set GPA records

A department grade point average record of 3.16 was set by student-athletes for the fall 2014 semester. The previous record was a 3.15. A total of 301 student-athletes were named to the AFNI Honor Roll, setting yet another record.

Six Redbird teams tied or set GPA records during the 2014-15 season. Members of baseball, men's basketball, men's cross country and women's golf teams set a new semester high in the classroom. Football and volleyball teams both notched in-season GPA records.

In addition to individual team accomplishments, the mens' programs combined for a 3.02 GPA across 245 students.

## Redbirds headed to Mexico

The men's basketball team will participate in the Cancun Challenge this fall. ISU will host two games before traveling down to Mexico to play another two Nov. 24-25 at the Hard Rock Hotel Riviera Maya. Both Mexico games will be nationally televised live on CBS Sports Network.

The Cancun Challenge is a unique basketball event held each year. The all-inclusive hotel near Cancun converts a ballroom into an arena that provides fans a close-up view of the games.

Check [GoRedbirds.com](http://GoRedbirds.com) for ticket information. Suzi Davis Travel will be coordinating travel for ISU fans.



# NEW CHEW

ALUM ON MISSION TO CHANGE THE FUTURE OF FAST FOOD

BY DANIEL P. SMITH







Mike Donahue '80 helped create an innovative fast food chain that embraces the motto Eat Good. Feel good. Do good.

IN THE NATION'S BATTLE AGAINST OBESITY, FAST FOOD CARRIES THE TITLE OF PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE—THE CALORIE-INDULGENT, FAT-PEDDLING, ARTIFICIAL INGREDIENT-POWERED SOURCE OF HEALTH ILLS AND EXPANDED WAISTLINES.

A former McDonald's executive, Mike Donahue '80 is challenging that reality with LYFE Kitchen. An acronym for Love Your Food Everyday, LYFE is in many ways the anti-fast food chain.

The 14-unit fast casual restaurant concept, which Donahue co-founded in 2011, embraces delicious, healthy, and socially responsible dining by eschewing fatty dishes, additives, pesticides, and genetically modified organisms as a partial list of the company's high standards.

Diners are instead served locally sourced, organic goods, grass-fed beef from humanely raised cattle and free-range chicken. Each restaurant dish weighs in at fewer than 600 calories, as LYFE Kitchen shuns butter, white sugar, white flour, high fructose corn syrup and trans fat.

Nearly four years ago, just as Donahue and his partners readied to launch,

one restaurant industry publication headline asked if LYFE Kitchen could be "The Whole Foods of Fast Food?"

*Wired* magazine wondered if LYFE "might just shift the calculus of American cuisine," while *New York Times* food columnist Mark Bittman hoped aloud that LYFE—propelled by the industry pedigree of its leaders and some deep-pocketed investors—would be "successful enough [to] have a real impact on the way we think of fast food."

"This brand attention all validated our idea ... and our mission to change the relationship people have with food," Donahue said.

Though currently a bit player in the ultra-competitive, \$683 billion restaurant game, Donahue embraces the hurdles ahead, energized by the possibilities and confident that his upstart concept will continue to make inroads.

"Before we even started, we believed we would be successful," Donahue said. "And we will be."

He speaks with a confidence that was lacking in his earliest days as a communication major at Illinois State. As friends studied finance, education, and biology, Donahue's classroom

lessons on persuasive language and non-verbal communication seemed soft and insignificant in comparison.

Slowly he began to see a bigger picture, stirred by the spirited teachings of communication professors he calls "legends in their field"—Bill Semlak, John Cragan, Mike Shelly and Vince Hazelton. As faculty championed the power of words and confronting conventional thought, Donahue recognized how communication could fuel change. He was energized by how words—not mathematical formulas or algorithms—could spark new realities.

"I was learning how to think. It was all about looking at things in a new way," he said. "As an Irish-Catholic kid from Rockford, rules were the norm, but these professors encouraged me to take conventional thinking and find intriguing alternative paths."

Donahue carried those lessons into his professional career, including stints at the National Federation of Indepen-





Included in each location is an herb wall that helps diners learn about sustainable food growth.



With the first restaurant opened in California, LYFE Kitchen can now also be found in Chicago and New York City.

## WE WANTED TO CREATE THE RESTAURANT OF THE FUTURE.

dent Business, 3M, and the Illinois Department of Commerce before landing at McDonald's in 1987.

Over two decades with the Golden Arches, Donahue held several senior management positions related to building, enhancing and protecting the McDonald's brand—one of the globe's most iconic trademarks. He crafted working

relationships with legislators and regulators, labor groups and trade associations, environmentalists and animal rights activists, eventually forming McDonald's first social responsibility department. He positioned McDonald's as an entrepreneurial and credible enterprise committed to corporate responsibility.

"Given its size, McDonald's was a prominent scapegoat for activist issues. I received the equivalent of a Ph.D. in social responsibility there," said Donahue, who earned the nickname "The Conductor" for his ability to navigate intense issues up to his retirement in 2006.

While consulting others on branding and marketing, he yearned to build a purpose-driven brand of his own. It was a personal mission he shared with Mike Roberts, former McDonald's president and LYFE Kitchen co-founder.

"We wanted to create the restaurant of the future," Donahue said.

Leveraging insights from McDonald's, technological advances in the kitchen, and consumers' intensifying

itch for healthy fare, the two began envisioning a transformative restaurant concept for a new era. Joining with investors, including the Carlises—a well known restaurateur and hospitality family from Memphis—the partners gathered a team of premier consultants. Among them was Art Smith, a culinary wizard and former personal chef to Oprah Winfrey.

In October 2011, following a national location search and the review of more than 700 prospective restaurant names, Donahue and his cohorts unveiled the first LYFE Kitchen in Palo Alto, California. The Silicon Valley home put LYFE next to some of the world's most daring, pioneering enterprises, including Apple, Google and Facebook.

While the idea was simple in words, the operational mission was unapologetically bold in an industry generally thought to favor efficiency and ease over integrity and extra effort: to provide great tasting, good-for-you food that's affordable, convenient and sustainable.



## BRUSSELS SPROUTS: THE FRENCH FRIES OF THE 21ST CENTURY.



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## LYFE PROMOTES GREAT TASTING, GOOD-FOR-YOU FOOD THAT'S AFFORDABLE, CONVENIENT AND SUSTAINABLE.

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"We thought about parents hustling kids to games, busy professionals, and all those who crave convenience, value and health, and this is what we believed they would want," said Donahue, a suburban Chicago resident and father of two teenage boys. "The beauty of LYFE Kitchen is that it feels like everyone's idea."

With its menu of \$4-\$14 dishes, LYFE shatters fast food norms. Breakfast offerings range from a spinach and avocado frittata to quinoa buttermilk pancakes. Lunch and dinner options include flatbreads, salads, chef-inspired entrées such as roasted salmon, Italian sausage and mozzarella ravioli, and Brussels sprouts that Donahue touts as the French fries of the 21st century. LYFE restaurants also feature wine sourced from vineyards committed to sustainable practices and craft beers hatched at local breweries.

The sustainability mission flows from the menu to the feng shui-inspired restaurant design. Construction includes reused, renewable, and recycled materials, while a free standing herb wall educates guests about sustainable food growth. Restaurants even feature health and wellness-fostering elements, such as advanced air purification, water filtration systems, and antimicrobial coatings

on common restaurant touchpoints representing what Donahue calls "well buildings" of the future.

"We reach down to very granular levels and there's no compromising," said Donahue, who beyond co-founder is the company's chief brand officer. He communicates LYFE's story to media, influencers, investors and consumers alike.

Looking to fulfill its company motto—Eat good. Feel good. Do good.—LYFE also dedicates a percentage of its profits to philanthropic causes, particularly those promoting active lifestyles or addressing hunger.

*Nation's Restaurant News*, the restaurant industry's preeminent publication, named LYFE Kitchen one of its five "Hot Concepts" last summer. The annual award recognizes forward-thinking restaurant concepts with intriguing growth potential. In a nod to LYFE's promise, a number of previous "Hot Concepts" honorees are now household names, including Noodles & Company, Smash-burger and Fogo de Chao.

"It's tangible proof we're making progress," Donahue says.

With 14 units in operation at the close of 2014, including two Chicago area locations and one in New York City, LYFE looks to open as many as 250 units



over the next five years. While some industry observers question the concept's expansion prospects given circling challenges around startup costs, broad consumer acceptance, and operational execution, Donahue remains resolute. He trumpets LYFE's potential to define a new restaurant category: the lifestyle restaurant.

"After all, the best way to predict the future is to create it," said Donahue, who believes in the words of Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

*Special thanks to LYFE Kitchen, which provided images of Art's Unfried Chicken, Brussel Sprouts, Kale-Banana Smoothie, and a Pizzanini.*



Customers with dietary restrictions or preferences appreciate that LYFE provides separate gluten free and vegetarian menus. These specific options are also included in the everything menu.





# Illinois State's Then & Now Quiz

Sharing stories about the campus as remembered at a given time automatically makes the collegiate years come to life, creating a quick and common bond for Redbirds who walked the Quad during the same time frame. Comparing how grads recall the ISU experience based on their years of attendance is also an interesting way to show how student life has evolved across generations.

1950s

1960s

1970s

Biggest **celebrity** or performer to visit campus

"BIG FOUR" DANCES

PETER, PAUL, AND MARY

Honorable mention

Andy Williams  
Robert Goulet



ELTON JOHN

Favorite off-campus **restaurant**

THE PILGRIM

RAGUSA'S



Talking to your friends

FACE TO FACE



WALL-MOUNTED TELEPHONE

Most popular Redbird **student-athlete**

KENNETH "BUZZ" SHAW



JERRY MCGREAL

DOUG COLLINS



Night out with friends

MEET AT THE CAGE

MOVIE AT CAPEN AUDITORIUM

MEET AT THE RED LION

Most **important thing** you brought for move-in



STEREO

Biggest **off-campus news** in the headlines



KOREAN WAR

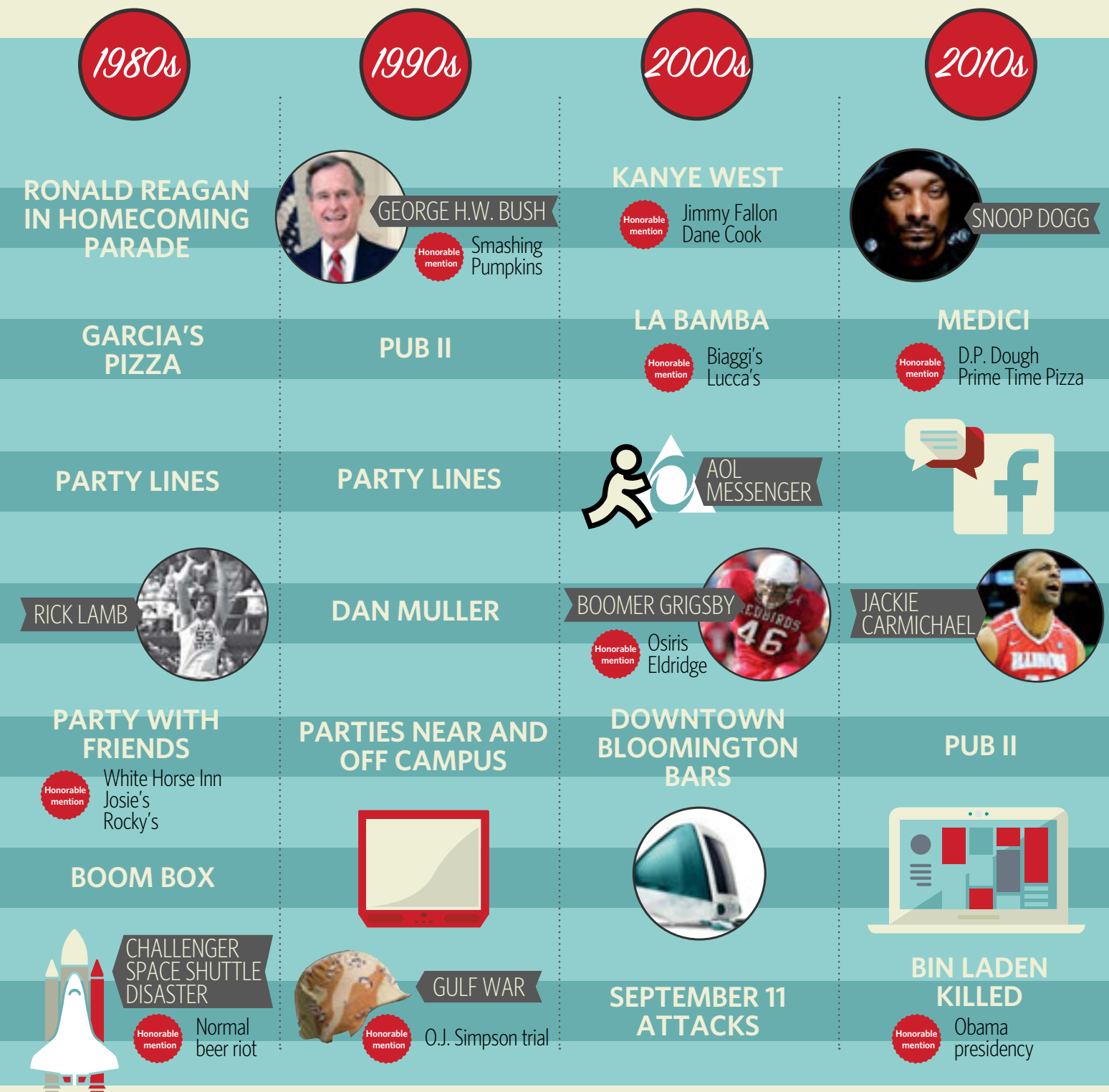
JFK and MLK ASSASSINATED

VIETNAM WAR

Honorable mention

Nixon's resignation  
Kent State shootings

*Illinois State* readers were asked in the November 2014 issue to answer the same set of questions about their time on campus. The response was overwhelming, allowing for a snapshot of specific eras. While short of a true scientific study, the replies give a clear sense of the ISU student experience—then and now.







AGGRESSIVE, DRIVEN TO SUCCEED AND FOCUSED, BROCK SPACK EMBRACED HIS FIRST COACHING POSITION WITH A ZEAL THAT LED SOME TO QUESTION HIS METHODS.

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His players were girls on the junior class powder puff football team at Rockford East High

School preparing for the annual homecoming week matchup with the seniors. Spack wanted to lead. Even more than that, he wanted to win.

“I was named head coach because I was such a football nut. I loved it. People were tapping me on the shoulder saying ‘You need to back off.’ I said ‘No, we’re setting a tempo,’” recalled Spack, a Rockford native who at the time was a standout linebacker on the

high school team.

“The juniors never won. We should have won. Our girls were crying. The next year we won by the worst score ever. Girls used to write in my annual ‘You will be a coach someday, no doubt about it.’ That’s how it all started.”

# ASLEEP NO MORE

ISU’S FOOTBALL COACH HAS  
AWAKENED THE GIANT

— *by Randy Reinhardt* —



**S**pack was far from done playing at the time, as he went on to excel as a linebacker at Purdue University. Yet that high school experience only cemented his desire to coach one day. And coach he has.

Arriving at Illinois State in 2009, Spack has transformed the Redbird program into a championship subdivision power that came tantalizingly close to its first national championship earlier this year in Frisco, Texas.

ISU set a school record for victories in a 13-2 season, earned a share of its first conference championship since 1999, and finished the season at No. 2 in national FCS rankings after a 29-27 loss to North Dakota State in the title contest.

The current Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year, Spack has a 46-26 record over six seasons at ISU. His 19 predecessors were a combined 71 games under .500.

"I don't want to come across as arrogant. It's not me, it's this place. This place is special," said Spack, who referred to the ISU football program as a "sleeping giant" upon his hire.

"It's 10 times what I thought it would be," Spack said of ISU's potential. "I think there's a lot more left in the tank."

Spack began molding the Redbirds

by setting a higher academic standard off the field, and enforcing a credo of work ethic and toughness on it. "The bar was going to rise academically," he said. True to his word, Spack's student-athletes are showing strength in the classroom.

*"It's not me,  
it's this place.  
This place is  
special."*

The football team finished the fall semester with a 2.86 grade point average and half of the players named to the honor roll for the best fall semester on record—even as players also focused on bringing home the University's first national championship. It is the third

consecutive fall semester that the team has improved its in-season GPA.

"It is important to recruit to the model of the University. We hold our players to that. You can't be disciplined in one form of your life and undisciplined in another."

Spack also instituted an intense winter conditioning program that featured 5:30 a.m. start times. While he refers to it as "County Fair," the more common term among Redbird players is "Hell Week."

But it was more than just individual players pushing themselves mentally and physically that consistently stopped opponents during the 2014 season. Spack views the team's success as a combination of talent and intangibles.

"I thought our leadership was very good," he said. "The players have a deep respect for each other. They did not want to let each other down."

Spack is equally determined to support his players in his first head coaching job. He is not surprised in the least that he ended up at ISU after a long stint as defensive coordinator at Purdue.

His two greatest influences at Rockford East—football coach Craig Stalcup and assistant football and head track coach Gary Giardini—both graduated





## TALKIN' SPACK

"He gave me the chance I needed. I came to him when I transferred (from Illinois) and he didn't make any promises. He said if you give it everything you've got, you could get your picture up there (Spack's gallery of former players in the NFL) someday."

*Former ISU player Nate Palmer '13  
of the Green Bay Packers*

"A coach like him, especially in college, it's sort of rare how truthful and genuine he is. He's very upfront with you. It's great to see that leadership. Everybody has respect for him. It's really fun to compete every single day when you have a lot of respect for who you're doing it with and who you're doing it for."

*Former ISU player Colton Underwood of the  
San Diego Chargers*

"He has had a great influence on me. He taught me how to be a real professional. He brings that sense to ISU. He runs a first class program. He couldn't be a better role model for everybody in that program. He's a real special guy to me. I owe a lot of my success to him."

*Former ISU player Mike Zimmer '13 of the  
Seattle Seahawks*

"Brock's impact has been significant. He came here believing that a high ceiling exists for Illinois State football. He has recruited student-athletes capable of competing in a very strong academic environment and capable of competing for championships at the conference and national levels. As a result, the Redbird football program has energized the campus, community and alumni in Illinois and around the country."

*ISU Director of Athletics Larry Lyons '86*

from Illinois State in 1967. Stalcup died at 37 of melanoma when Spack was a senior at Purdue.

"They were best friends. I had such a great experience in high school," Spack said. "We're getting ready to play the FCS national championship game, and Gary Giardini sends me a text saying how proud Craig would have been if he was still alive. That meant a lot because he meant a lot to me. In some strange way, this is my way of paying back Coach Stalcup for getting me into football and opening my eyes to what I could be."

Spack also kept an eye on the Redbirds, especially during his first full-time Division I coaching job as an assistant at Eastern Illinois from 1987-1990.

"When we played here, I would think 'Why aren't they winning,' I thought what a great place, my home state and look where it's located," Spack said. "I thought I would be a really good fit here. I speak the language of Chicago, Rockford and Peoria. I know the Midwest."

Spack also knows football. He watched older neighborhood kids play the game in a nearby empty lot before joining the fray of an 8-and-up league a year early.

"They let me play at 7. I was illegal,"

Spack recalled with a grin. "I was the first football player in my immediate family. I absolutely loved it. My whole life has been a football life. No one really prodded me."

Although his father, Jack, played basketball and tennis, he passed on to his son a love for the Chicago Bears.

"We would hurry back from church and put the Bears on," Spack said. "He propped me in front of the TV and said 'This is the best linebacker in all of football, Dick Butkus.' I turned into a huge Bears fan. You didn't do anything else when the Bears were on."

Television also introduced Spack to a lifelong companion—college football.

"There was one game on Saturdays, the college game of the week on ABC," Spack said. "I plopped my butt down and watched it from start to finish. My dream was to play on ABC and be the Chevrolet Player of the Game. Guess what? I won that twice when I was in college. That was kind of cool."

His passion for the game has not waned, especially given the opportunities at Illinois State. His team has won every game in Hancock Stadium since renovations were completed in 2013.

Spack looks forward to many more battles on the field, as he agreed to remain







as ISU's head coach through 2021.

"I can hardly wait to start all over again," Spack said, turning his thoughts to the upcoming season. "We have some good players coming back, but there are no guarantees. We've also got some good players we have to replace at really important positions."

After a record-setting offensive season, the Redbirds welcome back Missouri Valley Newcomer of the Year Tre Roberson at quarterback and the Missouri Valley Offensive Player of the Year in tailback Marshaun Coprich.

Roberson set a school record for total offense with 4,250 yards, while Coprich smashed previous ISU marks with 2,274 yards rushing and 27 touchdowns.

Also returning are key defenders in

ends Teddy Corwin and David Perkins and linebackers Pat Meehan, Alex Donnelly and Oshay Dunmore—who may be shifted to safety.

As Spack has done in the past to address certain areas of his squad, the Redbirds have added potentially significant Bowl Subdivision transfers to their defense in lineman David Kenney from Indiana, linebacker Reggie Spearman from Iowa and cornerback Stephen Amoako from Oregon.

Spack believes the playoff run provided an obvious boost to putting together the 2015 recruiting class. He expects the benefits to manifest themselves even more in 2016, as current high school juniors prepare to make their college choices.

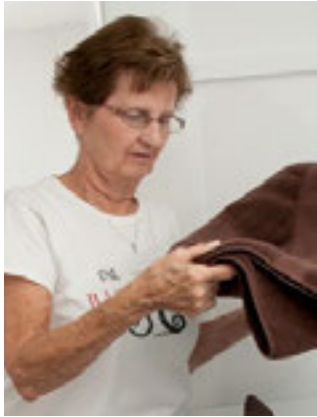
"This is a really neat place from the faculty to the administrators to the athletic department to the town to the alumni to the students," Spack said. "To see how much impact this has had on the ISU community, it's awesome. No amount of money can buy the appreciation of something that has never been done."

Spack views this year's trip to Frisco and the resulting tsunami of Redbird pride as much more of a beginning than a destination.

"I hope our fans feel like we can do this. We absolutely can do this," he said of the Redbirds establishing a winning tradition. "This is not what we can be, but what we should be. It's who we are."



*"This is not what we can be, but what we should be. It's who we are."*



# Talent beyond teaching



## Campus relies on jobs done outside the classroom

Tell someone you work at the University and the same question is consistently asked: Do you teach?

About 1,400 do at Illinois State, but many others are needed away from the classroom in jobs that are often unusual. Few employers need a supervisor of costume crafts, an athletic turf specialist or a parking meter mechanic on staff.

These are but a sampling of the unique and often overlooked roles on campus. Others include the housekeeper who keeps the president's home spotless and a University Farm herder who treats raw sewage. Both share how their work is far from a typical day at the office.

BY KATE ARTHUR









# A Spic and Span plan

Perfection defines Fran Kaufmann. With her \$9.98 iron, she presses wrinkles from T-shirts. If there's a lipstick stain on a white linen napkin, she scrubs it out with a toothbrush. Fresh sweeper marks are important, as is pulling still-warm towels out of the dryer and folding them just so.

Kaufmann has done that and far more while serving four Illinois State presidents as the University residence housekeeper. Making sure a 4,000-square-foot home remains spotless is not an easy task, especially with thousands of visitors annually. She serves them all with a smile, greeting them at the front door when one leaves an umbrella in the foyer or a cell phone behind.

It's a job she's loved for 16 years.

"I treat it like it's my house," she said. "I always try and make sure the front rooms are perfect. You never know who's coming through the door."

The 70-year-old was the personal housekeeper for Vic and Megan Boschini before he became president. He encouraged her to apply for the campus job, and she didn't hesitate. Her husband, Ed, was a self-employed carpenter and they needed the insurance.

She works from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and has no plans to stop. Cleaning homes has been her job since 17, when she graduated from high school and there were limited employment options. She grew up on a farm, gathering eggs and helping her mother with chores that ranged from churning butter to tending a huge garden.

That gives her something in common with the current University residents, as President Larry Dietz grew up on a dairy farm. Kaufmann is equally comfortable with his wife, Marlene.

"They're very joyful, always laughing," she said. "Larry will talk to me in the morning. If he's having a cup of yogurt, he'll offer me one. They're just very friendly and outgoing people."

Never having had a full-time housekeeper, Marlene had no idea what to expect. "I was a little fearful of my own privacy, but she gives you that," Marlene said. "When we cross paths, we visit because we enjoy each other's company. She has a gift for what she does."

She also has a routine. She starts cleaning on the first floor on Monday, working her way through each level until she reaches the kitchen on Thursday. It gets a thorough scrubbing. "I have

1,500 pieces of silver that I keep up," she said in explaining Friday's work. "It's relaxing for me to sit and polish."

When there's a big event, workers arrive at 8:30 a.m. to remove furniture from the living area. She puts the leaf in the dining room table that seats 18 and runs a dust rag over the skeleton of each chair.

She leaves a note at the end of each day to let the presidential couple know of scheduled work, such as an upcoming power wash for the house, or the need to pick ripened tomatoes from the garden.

The messages have been her signature for more than 50 years.

"It's fun coming home and finding a note. She just makes our lives so much easier so we can go on and do the things that are expected of us," Marlene said. "Being a new president's wife, I couldn't do it without her. She takes good care of both the house and us. I consider her a friend as well as the housekeeper. I miss her when she's off."

On those days, Kaufmann has no need to pull the sweeper out at her own home. Now that her husband of 51 years is retired, he cleans the house.



# A shovel and a stench

Jason Lindbom's job stinks. Literally.

Stirring buckets of raw animal sewage, he shows what happens to the sludge that's treated at the University Farm's Waste Treatment Center. Or, as the sign on the door accurately describes it: The Department of Poopology.

It's a building you really don't want to tour without holding your breath.

"You get used to it. Everything runs downhill," he said, laughing. "You can say anything you want about that."

Two days a week the 1993 ag production alum works in waste treatment. The rest of the time he and six others do daily chores—from feeding sows to breeding cows through artificial insemination.

"We all help each other out," Lindbom said as he climbed into a mud-splattered pickup, diesel engine idling. "Everybody gets the chores done, and then you do your job."

He came to ISU in 2009 as a herder, but that doesn't mean he's shepherding livestock around the Lexington farm. His official title is assistant agricultural research technician, which is not what he pictured himself doing when he graduated.

"I tried an office job and it wasn't for me," he said. "I've been outside all my life."

When he and his wife Amy's first daughter was born, he became a stay-at-home dad, running his own business selling beef semen and breeding cows through artificial insemination. He worked from home until their second daughter was in first grade. His business eventually led him to the University Farm, where he loves working with agriculture students.

"I really like teaching students how to artificially inseminate cows," he said. "When a kid gets it, just seeing their expression makes it worth it."

It takes a few minutes to breed a cow and 283 days for a calf to be born. The students learn how to palpate a cow, pulling on a plastic sleeve, inserting a hand into the uterus and sweeping it from side to side. If they feel something like a water balloon about the size of a cat, the cow was successfully bred. They may even feel movement.

Not your typical university job. But neither is managing a waste treatment facility. The farm treats nearly all the manure produced to reduce odor and

the environmental impact of livestock waste.

Lindbom monitors the equipment that separates the solid and liquid waste and treats the sewage. The liquid is used to feed the crops. The solids are hauled to quarter-mile-long compost rows, which also contain food waste from the University's dining centers. The Town of Normal delivers leaves and grass clippings to the compost piles. Items homeowners raked out of their yards, from golf balls to dog toys, have to be picked out. The compost is made available for landscape use.

There is a definite advantage to such physical work. At the end of the day, when his wife asks him to go with her for a workout, Lindbom passes without guilt. He doesn't need any more exercise.

"I tell her that's what I've been doing all day."

## Yet another odd job

Rachel Webb has had some unusual moments in her role as an immigration specialist with the Office of International Studies and Programs. Read her story at [IllinoisState.edu/Magazine](http://IllinoisState.edu/Magazine).









# Inside Look

You know that scene from the end of *Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark* where a warehouse contains mysterious boxes and artifacts as far as the eye can see? There's a place like that at Illinois State University. The Dr. Jo Ann Rayfield Archives, housed in a large warehouse a few miles from campus, holds a trove of historical artifacts that paint a vivid portrait of the University since its founding. Faculty papers, presidential portraits, event memorabilia—anything that can be classified as institutional memory can find a home here.

## 1. Keeper of the past

April Anderson has served as the University Archivist since 2011. She took over for the first university archivist, Jo Ann Rayfield, for whom the collection is named. She is charged with maintaining and growing the collection. From her

first time touring the archives, Anderson knew the University had a gem. "It's not just the University's history, teacher education history is here as well. We have a lot to offer to that history and other fields as well. No matter who you are, you will find something back here that's interesting."

## 2. No wandering!

The archives house more than 15,000 linear feet of artifacts including boxes, flat files, and a cold room. Temperature and humidity controls ensure the preservation of items old and new. The archives are open to the public but by appointment only. Even then you won't be allowed to wander the aisles. Some things are too fragile to handle without assistance!

## 3. White boxes vs. grey boxes

White boxes contain artifacts that are already cataloged and processed. Grey boxes have yet to be organized. Anderson and her staff can move through a linear foot each day, recording items before placing them in acid-free folders and boxes.

## 4. Hovey's swords

If a fire broke out and Anderson could only save one artifact, she'd choose the swords of Charles E. Hovey, Illinois State's first president. Hovey approached Abraham Lincoln about creating a Teachers Regiment at the request of his students during the Civil War. The sword on the trunk is decorative; the one Anderson is holding was last carried into battle in 1863.



#### 5. Fell's trunk

Hovey wasn't the only one who offered his services during the Civil War. This trunk belonged to Jesse Fell, co-founder of Illinois State University. Fell served as paymaster for the Union Army from 1862–1863.

#### 6. A theatre for ants

This model of the Theatre at Ewing was presented by the architect prior to construction. Multiple moves have caused damage to the model, reducing its once miniature grandeur.

#### 7. In style

This bonnet belonged to Harriet (Vernon) Fell, wife of Jesse Fell. A devout Christian, Harriet would wear this headpiece while attending church or out in the community.

#### 8. It's about time

This time capsule was buried when Old Main was completed in 1861 and retrieved when it was torn down in 1958. The little black box contained newspaper clippings, dried prairie flowers, the first university catalog, a Bible, a picture of Old Main with costs and signatures of builders, and a number of other items.

#### 9. Huggable history

Even stuffed animals form a part of Illinois State history. Anderson can use various clues to determine the era during which they were made. It isn't always as easy as hoping a date is printed on the tag!

#### 10. Piece of the past

When Old Main was demolished, pieces of the building were given to alumni and community members as souvenirs.

#### 11. Portraits

Presidential portraits that once graced the walls of the Circus Room are now kept safe in the archives. There are 14 presidential portraits in the archives, as well as images of graduating classes and other key members of the campus community. This portrait is of Jacob Greenbaum, father to Elisabeth Greenbaum, who established the Greenbaum Memorial Fund.

#### 12. Your artifact here

Anderson is always seeking new artifacts for the University's collection. Contact Anderson at [Archives@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:Archives@IllinoisState.edu) to learn how you can make your memory a part of Illinois State history. Peruse the archives online by visiting [Library.IllinoisState.edu/Unique-Collections/Archives](http://Library.IllinoisState.edu/Unique-Collections/Archives).



# Alumni Awards

The Illinois State University Alumni Association honored six award recipients at Founders Day in February, as well as during a dinner program. For video of this year's awards program, visit [Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Awards](http://Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Awards).

## Distinguished Alumni Award

**Patti S. Hart '78**  
CEO, International Game Technology (IGT)  
Las Vegas, Nevada

As chief executive officer of International Game Technology (IGT) since April 2009, Patti Hart leads one of the most innovative and profitable gaming companies in the world. With nearly 5,000 employees and offices on six continents, IGT is a global leader in casino gaming entertainment and systems technology. Hart has served on IGT's board of directors since June 2006 and is currently on the board of directors of the American Gaming Association.

Prior to joining IGT, she was the chairman and CEO of Pinnacle Systems, Inc., from 2004 to 2005; and of Excite@Home, Inc., from 2001 to 2002. Hart was previously chairman and CEO of Telocity, Inc. She also held various executive positions with Sprint Corporation from 1986 to 1999, including president and COO of Sprint's long distance division. While in that role she was included in the inaugural *Fortune* list of "Most Powerful Women" in 1998.

Outside the walls of IGT, Hart boasts an impressive community involvement resume. She serves on Duke University's Public Policy School Board of Visitors. Her past service includes the Illinois Task Force for Literacy, the Southern Methodist University Meadows Art School Board and the Steppenwolf Theatre Board in Chicago. The latter boards reflect her love for the arts and her dedication to furthering their missions.

Hart holds a degree in business administration with an emphasis in marketing and economics. An Illinois native, she resides in Las Vegas, Nevada.

## Alumni Achievement Award

**Jay Blunk '86**  
Executive Vice President, Chicago Blackhawks  
Wilmette

Jay Blunk has engineered changes to the Blackhawks' business landscape, promoting fan accessibility, innovative strategies and new revenue sources. He oversaw new concepts, including Training Camp Festival and the Emmy Award-winning Blackhawks TV. He helped bring to Wrigley Field the 2009 NHL Winter Classic—the most-watched NHL game in 34 years.

In 2008-2009, the Blackhawks drew more than 1 million fans for the first time and set a league record by averaging 21,783 fans per home game. The season ticket base has tripled to more than 14,000 since the 2007-2008 season. The Blackhawks have since consistently been one of the NHL's attendance leaders.

The Blackhawks twice earned a nomination for *SportsBusiness Journal's* Professional Sports Team of the Year, have twice been voted to have the NHL's "Most Innovative Business Practices," and noted for the NHL's "Best Business Savvy" by *The Hockey News*.

Blunk previously served 22 years with the Chicago Cubs. He developed promotional events and was with the Cubs when an attendance record was set in 2007.

An advisory board member for ISU's School of Communication, Blunk sits on the boards of the Chicago Sports Commission, the Greater North Michigan Avenue Association, and the USO of Illinois and Chicago Blackhawks Charities.

Blunk was a 2012 inductee into the Chicago Sports Hall of Fame. He and his wife, Marci, have three children: Brandon, Maggie and Cameron.

## Outstanding Young Alumni Award

**Matt Klusas '03**  
Chief Executive Officer, Cryogenic Control  
Herndon, Virginia

Matt Klusas earned a degree in public relations and minors in economics and philosophy. He completed a master's at the London School of Economics with merit, graduating with the highest mark of distinction for his dissertation.

Klusas worked in the financial services industry, including Deutsche Bank, the Chicago Board of Trade, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. He went to global management consulting firm McKinsey & Co. before holding senior executive roles in the life sciences industry, including Life Technologies (now Thermo-Fisher) and the American Type Culture Collection. He played a leading role in development of next generation DNA sequencing technologies and rapid microbiology detection methods.

Matt is now CEO of Cryogenic Control, a company focusing on remote monitoring software for cryogenically stored biological materials. He is an executive board member at Radian Biotechnology, which focuses on molecular diagnostics for veterinary companion animals.

Klusas left his mark at Illinois State. Lambda Pi Eta was named the National Chapter of the Year during his presidency of the student organization. He developed an Oxford-style debate and founded the student organization Communication Opportunities for Majors and Minors. He established an endowment to fund the John R. Baldwin Leadership Award.

Klusas and his wife, Marina, met during a study abroad program at the University of Oxford while he was at Illinois State.





Patti Hart



Jay Blunk



Matt Klusas



Jaime Flores



Sharon Rossmark



Sandra Harmon

## Senator John W. Maitland Jr. Commitment to Education Award

Jaime Flores '80

Owner, Tamale Hut Café

Berwyn

Since studying marketing, Jaime Flores '80 has nurtured opportunities for the Latino community. He was president of ISU's Association of Latin American Students.

After graduating, Flores joined the University's Admissions staff, where he was an invaluable resource for minority students. He started a Hispanics in the '80s program on campus before taking a position with Inroads International.

For two decades Flores worked as a human resources manager for the non-profit organization that matches talented minority candidates with major employers. He helped shape the future of students through professional development and internships with Fortune 1000 organizations.

Now owner of the Tamale Hut Café in North Riverside, Flores uses his business to showcase local Hispanic authors and artists. His community service includes work on the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, Goodwill Industries, Berwyn City of Homes, and Berwyn ethics commission. He has served a decade on ISU's Board of Trustees.

Flores continues to maintain strong ISU ties as a proud alum who encourages and mentors students. He worked to help create the University's Latin@ Alumni Network and serves as its first president.

He and his wife, Lizet, are the parents of Elizabeth and Helen.

## E. Burton Mercier Alumni Service Award

Sharon Rossmark '78

President and CEO, Zayos Global Ventures, LLC  
Northbrook

Sharon Rossmark is head of Zayos Global Ventures, LLC, a consulting firm advising businesses on solutions for excess inventory. She chairs the National Children's Center board; is vice chair of Sinai Health System's board; and is on ISU's College of Business advisory council and Special Olympics Illinois board.

She served on the American Hospital Association's Midwest Regional Policy Board, Oakton Community College board, and was board chair of Patient Safety at Sinai Health System.

She is a facilitator and panelist on topics of board governance, patient safety and mentoring. She presents for numerous organizations, including the American Hospital Association.

Rossmark worked 30 years in the insurance and financial services industry. As an Allstate Insurance Company executive, she led a division responsible for business support of the organization's agency distribution channel.

She honored her parents and her father's WWII and D-Day service by establishing an ISU endowed scholarship supporting U.S. military soldiers and veterans.

She completed her MBA from the University of Illinois-Chicago and earned the Governance Fellow designation from the National Association of Corporate Directors. She is an American Hospital Association Trustee Leadership Network member and a Mentium Corporation executive mentor alumnus.

Her husband is Duane.

Sandra D. Harmon, M.A. '70, D.A. '90

ISU History Professor Emeritus  
Normal

Sandra Harmon taught U.S. history, women's history, history education, and women's studies. Her research included the history of women's education in the United States and 19th-century women at the University.

She taught ISU's first women's history courses and helped create the Women's Studies program, serving as acting director prior to retiring in 2004. As interim assistant to the president for Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity, she chaired the committee that wrote ISU's first plan for diversity.

Harmon has served the Illinois Shakespeare Festival Society, Friends of the Arts and Senior Professionals. She and her husband, Paul, endowed the Harmon Recruitment Scholarship in History.

She has worked on the Illinois State Historical Society's Scholarly Symposium Committee and the McLean County Historical Society board. She served on the boards of Marc Center, League of Women Voters of McLean County, Campus Religious Center Corporation, and Heartland Theatre Company. She is a founding member of the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation Women to Women Giving Circle and is a member of the Town of Normal Human Relations Commission.

Harmon received the ISU Outstanding University Teacher Award, YWCA Woman of Distinction Award, and League of Women Voters of McLean County Leaguer of the Year. She and Paul jointly received the Town of Normal Citizens of the Year Award.

# #RedbirdProud



## Faithful fans

Football season unites alumni cheering across country

**R**edbird pride was on display from coast to coast throughout the football season, which climaxed as the team competed for the FCS national championship. Beyond the hundreds who made the trek to Texas to cheer in the stands, alumni unable to attend gathered at numerous watch parties.

Alumni Relations partnered with Athletics to help arrange locations where ISU fans could join in a cheering section. Not surprisingly, groups tuned in across campus and Central Illinois. Redbirds also came together in force throughout the Chicago area and far beyond.

Watch parties were scheduled from San Francisco to Washington, D.C. There

was plenty of red on display at locations in Nashville, New Orleans and New York. The list grew to include Orlando, Philadelphia and Atlanta. Two especially enthusiastic grads partnered with the Alumni Association to host watch parties in Colorado and Texas.

Jenna Anderson '07 organized a gathering for every playoff game, inviting Redbirds in the Denver area to The Sportsbook Bar in Greenwood Village, Colorado. The group, shown above, was cheering during the championship finale in January.

Susan Nelson-Brown '78 of Dallas was among the most confident and loyal football fans, hosting watch parties throughout the entire season. Never

doubting that the Redbirds would make it to Texas, she just patiently cheered from the first game in the fall through to the finale.

Watch parties don't end with the football season, as Redbirds rally to cheer on the basketball team as well. Many televised games throughout the season make it possible to see the action even when unable to return to Redbird Arena.

Don't know of watch parties in your area? Contact Alumni Relations to see what is available now so you're ready for the upcoming season. If there are none yet organized, consider being the one to arrange a gathering for games. Get more information by calling (309) 438-2586 or emailing [Alumni@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:Alumni@IllinoisState.edu).



# Alumni News

## Plan for Homecoming

With the theme of **#Back the Birds** chosen, efforts are underway for this year's Homecoming celebration. Plan now to visit campus October 19-25.

Annual traditions will continue on Saturday the 24th, with the Town and Gown 5K Run followed by the parade through Uptown Normal. The football team will compete that afternoon.

Beyond these highlights, reconnect with faculty and friends from your area of study or an affinity group. Tour the campus and Uptown Normal, as much has changed in recent years.

To learn more about events as they are scheduled, go online to Homecoming. [IllinoisState.edu](http://IllinoisState.edu) or call Alumni Relations at (309) 438-2586.

## Alumni meeting set

Alumni are invited to the Alumni Association annual meeting at 9:30 a.m. on June 20 in the Alumni Center. Agenda items include the election of Alumni Association Board of Directors members and officers.

Alumni who have made a gift through the University Foundation in the current or preceding year are eligible to vote at the meeting. Go to Alumni. [IllinoisState.edu](http://IllinoisState.edu) or call (309) 438-2586 for more information.

## Legacy family defined

All Redbirds share the common bond of enjoying their collegiate years on the University campus. For some, the tie to Illinois State is made even stronger by a family connection.

Anyone with a sibling, parent or grandparent who attended the University is part of a legacy family. Alumni Relations is working to add events and opportunities to celebrate such connections.

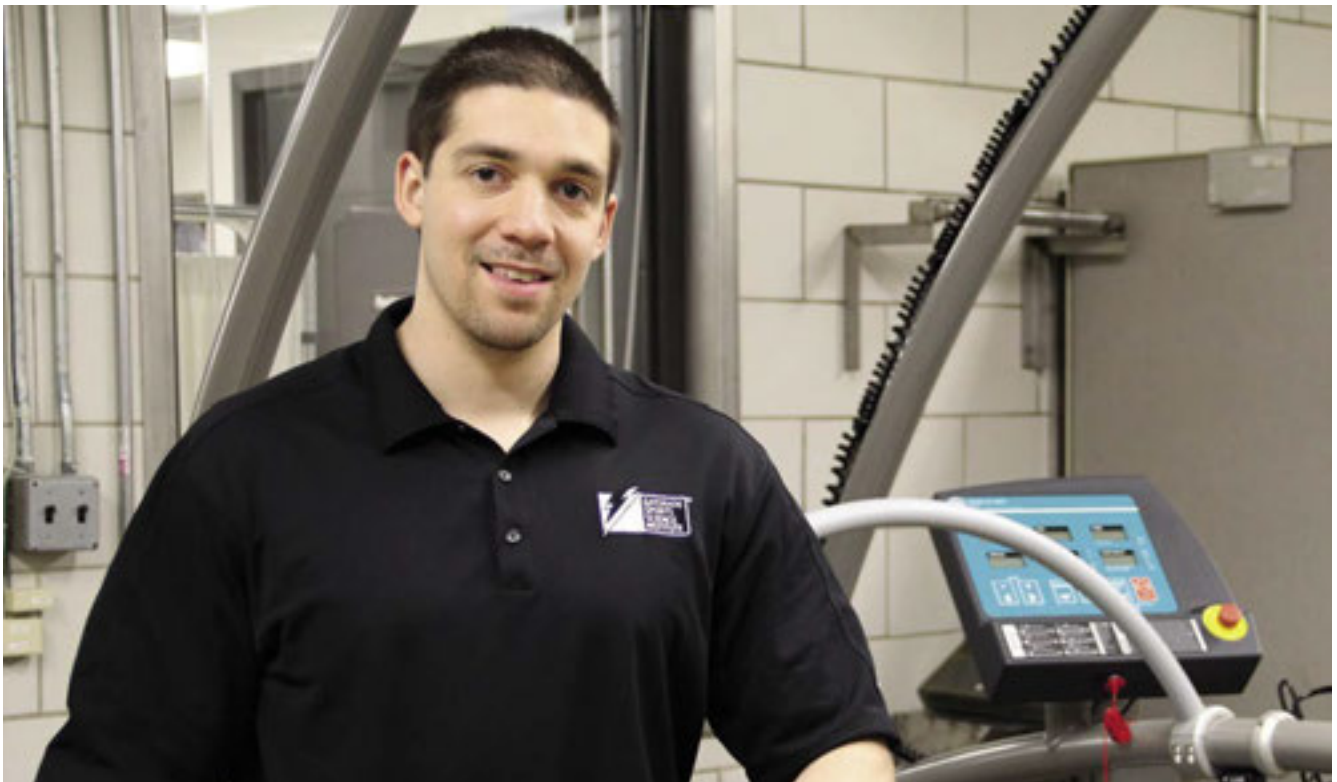
Share your family's legacy at Alumni. [IllinoisState.edu/Legacy](http://IllinoisState.edu/Legacy).



## From the archives

ISU's commencement ceremonies have changed markedly over time. The first class of 10 graduated in 1860 in an Old Main ceremony. Regalia was first worn in 1934. Activities were held on the Quad for many years, with the Class of 1954 shown above. Class size required a move from Braden Auditorium in 1979 to Horton Field House, and eventually Redbird Arena. Each student crossed the stage as of 1981, when ceremonies were divided by college and spread over two days. A December commencement was added in 1991.





## Fueling athletes

Alum researches sports nutrition for Gatorade

**R**yan Nuccio '09 learned the power of nutrition on a cross country course in high school. He realized as a junior that his diet made him sick when competing and impaired his athletic performance.

He changed what and when he ate before races to improve. By senior year, he was team co-captain. "I realized that nutrition had a powerful impact on me and my performance, and I realized how drastically it can make a difference," said Nuccio, a food, nutrition and dietetics alum.

Today he chases his passion—sports nutrition—as a research and development scientist at the biggest name in sports hydration. He works at Gatorade Sports Sciences Institute (GSSI), which

helps athletes improve their health and performance through research and education in hydration and nutrition science.

Nuccio works in the Barrington lab, where scientists study the effects of nutrition on the human body before, during and after exercise. His job blends business and academia. In a single day, Nuccio could bounce from a research study to a collaborative team project and a presentation about nutrition.

The diversity of experiences is his favorite part of the job. "There's always something happening," Nuccio said, "and it's all things I enjoy."

Nuccio's career path began in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, which he found through a

high school academic advisor. He was impressed by the well-rounded education he received.

"Having professors with real-life work experience kept me engaged and wanting to learn more about nutrition. There was never a time when it became dull or boring," Nuccio said.

After graduating Nuccio did a dietetic internship with Loyola University in Chicago, followed by a master's degree in nutrition education at Rosalind Franklin University.

He joined GSSI in 2011 as a research associate. Today his focus is on how nutrition influences exercise performance, as well as its impact on neurocognitive function.

## 40s

**Nadiene Wenderuth Backlund '44** is widowed and lives in Lutheran Hillside Village in Peoria.

## 50s

**Harriet (Koenig) Zoeller '50** has been retired for 25 years from a teaching career that spanned 32 years. She taught music and middle school math. She and her husband, John, reside in Normal.

**Gene Brandt '52, Ed.D. '68**, retired in 1993 and continued teaching part-time until 2000. He has authored 16 books of travel stories, an autobiography, WWII stories and *The Thinking Person's Limerick Book*. He and his wife, Sumie, reside in Lebanon.

**Eleanor (Lucas) Walker '58, M.S. '69**, has retired after 56 years of teaching and serving as a principal in Princeton Elementary Schools. She is widowed and lives in Princeton.

**Eleanor (Bennett) McMurrin '59** is retired and volunteers at Reading Power in North Chicago. She and her husband, Richard, reside in Lake Forest.

## 60s

**Martha (Pascal) Benjamin '65, M.S. '71**, has retired from ISU's College of Education. She and her husband, Jerry, reside in Bloomington.

**Sharon (Aldis) Bossert '65** has retired from teaching at Dwight Grade School. She and her husband, Robert, reside in Essex.

**Terry Fry '65, M.S. '69, Ed.D. '76**, is retired from teaching English at Bloomington High School. He is widowed and resides in Normal.

**Judi (Brosi) Buckman '66, M.S. '97**, retired as a speech pathologist with Indian Prairie School District 204. She and her husband, Chuck, reside in Naperville.

**Ken Williams '66** owns and operates K LW Enterprises, which provides financial training to churches. He has served as organist for 25 years at St. Matthew United Methodist

Church in Belleville. He and his wife, Linda, reside in Swansea.

**Gary Sulaski '68** taught PE and coached baseball and football at Hinsdale Central High School from 1968 to 1999 before retiring. He continued to coach another six years. He has been inducted into the IHSACA Hall of Fame for his baseball coaching. He and his wife, Diana, reside on a farm near Findlay.

**Daniel Chonowski '69** is president and CEO of the Greater Peoria Family YMCA. He was the 2014 recipient of the Illini Chief Club Award, which is presented by the Illinois State Alliance of YMCAs. He resides in Peoria.

**Fred Landbeck '69** has been elected president of the Grey Eagles, a national organization of retired and senior American Airline pilots. He and his wife, Carolyn, reside in Bull Valley.

**Jean (Linenweber) Nisbet '69** is a senior software engineer with Karl Storz. She and her husband, Robert, reside in Goleta, California.

## 70s

**Stephen Hillis '70, M.S. '75**, is retired from serving as a school psychologist for 11 years in Wisconsin and 27 years in North Carolina. He has had a private practice since 1989. He has remarried and resides in West Jefferson, North Carolina.

**Rodger Wasson '71** served as CEO of several state and national agricultural organizations before forming his own business, Idea Farming, Inc. He and his wife, Vicki, reside in Aptos, California.

**Mary Dellorto '72, M.S. '73**, is a self-employed clinical psychologist. She and her husband, Paul, reside in Downs.

**Daniel Kuhn '73** is vice president at All Trust Home Care. He has authored *Alzheimer's Early Stages: First Steps for Family, Friends and Caregivers*. He resides in Chicago.

**David Palia '73** retired after 35 years with the Illinois Department of Transportation. He works as a public involvement specialist for the Blue Daring consultant firm in

# Pause for applause



## Athlete in world spotlight

Already the holder of ISU track and field records, **Brittany Smith '12** became the world leader in shot put earlier this year. She earned the world-best mark at the Illinois Wesleyan Titan Triangular with a throw of 19.01 meters. While a member of the ISU track and field team for four years, Smith was a 10-time All-American, two-time NCAA runner-up, and an Olympic Trials qualifier in the shot put and hammer throw. She holds all of ISU's throwing records in the indoor/outdoor shot put, hammer and weight. Still a loyal Redbird, Smith is the director of track and field/cross country operations at the University.

## From county board to Congress

A career in public service that started while an Illinois State political science major continues for **Adam Kinzinger '00**. He held a seat on the McLean County Board as an ISU sophomore. He now serves as U.S. Representative from the 16th District in Illinois. A Republican, his term runs through 2016. First elected in 2011, he is on the Energy and Commerce Committee and has served as Deputy Republican Whip. At 37, he is one of the youngest members of Congress. A member of the Air Force, he received the Airman's Medal in 2007 for saving a young woman from an attacker with a knife.



## Keeper of the past

**Trevor Steinbach** didn't lose his passion for history after completing his major in the subject and speech communications in 1975. He has participated in Civil War reenactments as a medic the past 15 years, doing it so well he is nationally recognized. Steinbach is president of the 17th Corps Field Hospital and is on the board of directors of the Society of Civil War Surgeons. He is also president of Tri-State Historical Presentations, which celebrates this year the 150th anniversary of General Ulysses Grant's return to Galena. Steinbach's wife, **Cathy (Agnew) '75**, majored in music and plays antique flutes at the reenactments.



## Ready for the runway

**Toby (Ford) Atkinson '05** is a wife, mom and working professional. As Mrs. Illinois, she is also the proud representative of other women who juggle multiple roles. Atkinson will represent Illinois in the national competition for Mrs. United States during a five-day event set for July in Las Vegas. This is the 29th year for the pageant, which acknowledges that married women are an inspiration to families, friends, colleagues and communities. Atkinson is a regional talent acquisition manager for Cintas Corporation. She and her husband, Shaun, are the parents of a 3-year-old daughter and reside in Bolingbrook.





# How we met

The odds of Sarah Frakes '10 meeting Daniel Chavez '07 were not great. She started her marketing degree in the College of Business just as he was completing his senior year as an economics major in the College of Arts and Sciences. Sarah came from western Illinois and lived in Hewett. Daniel was from the Chicago south suburbs and lived off campus.

It was consequently not a class or shared residence hall experience that brought the two together, but rather jobs at The Garlic Press in Uptown Normal. "I had been working as a dishwasher for a few years when Sarah started out front," Daniel said. "I kept asking my boss to schedule us together, but she refused."

"Luckily for us, I had to take an economics class. Daniel helped me with a few assignments, which started our friendship," Sarah said. They came to share a group of friends as a result, but didn't date until Daniel began returning for campus visits after graduating.

Sarah and Daniel dated for more than five years before his proposal came in the home they had just purchased in November 2013. The wedding was August 16, 2014, with many Redbird friends participating in the celebration.

Now living in Homewood, Sarah is the marketing coordinator for The Arc of Illinois, which empowers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Daniel is a supply chain manager at Panduit, a global manufacturer.

The two appreciate that they can share their ISU memories with each other, as they both enjoyed their collegiate days.

"It's awesome that we have that campus connection," Sarah said, noting they enjoy visiting the University whenever possible. Their Redbird pride is strong and obvious, even displayed via the family pet as they accessorize their dog's collar with an ISU handkerchief.



Daniel and Sarah, seated, paused at their wedding reception to pose with their many Redbird friends who attended the August 2014 ceremony. Among them were, standing behind the couple, ISU Board of Trustees Chair Rocky Donahue '82 and his wife, Janet.

Chicago. He and his wife, Susanne, reside in Streamwood.

**John Tenny '73, M.S. '74**, is vice president of education solutions for RANDA Solutions Company, which acquired his company, eCOVE Software. He resides in Pacific City, Oregon.

**Patrick Schloss '74, M.S. '76**, is retired president of Valdosta State University. He previously served as president of Northern State University in South Dakota and chaired the special education departments at Penn State and University of Missouri. He has authored many books in special education and higher education leadership. He resides in Valdosta, Georgia.

**Anthony Martin '75** of Sandberg Phoenix and Von Gontard has joined the mediation panel at United States Arbitration and Mediation, which is the leading provider of mediation and arbitration services. He resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Debra (Bannon) Weingarh '75** authored the book *If Only I Could Bark*. She and her husband, Mark, reside in Hermann, Missouri.

**Steven Longman '76** is lead cost engineer for Jacobs Engineering Group at ExxonMobil in Beaumont, Texas, where he resides.

**Mark Lowery '77** has established his own firm, Lowery and Associates Security Consulting. He completed 35 years in law enforcement, retiring as a special agent in charge of the U.S. Secret Service. He was responsible for protecting four sitting presidents, traveled to more than 33 countries and received the Medal of Valor, which is the Secret Service's highest honor. He and his wife, Karen, reside in Granbury, Texas.

**Randy Roland '77** retired from Riverdale CUSD 100 after teaching general music and band for 37 years. He and his wife, Donna, reside in Erie.

**Patrick J. Cotter '78** has joined Greensfelder, Hemker and Gale, P.C., to lead the law firm's newly formed government interaction practice group. He is also a member of the firm's litigation practice group and white collar crime and corporate compliance practice. He previously served as an assistant U.S. attorney. He is a legal commentator for national media and has taught criminal law at several universities. He resides in Chicago.

**Marjorie (Williams) Douglas '79, '09**, is an information and assistance specialist with Central Illinois Agency on Aging, Inc. She and her husband, Melvin, reside in Peoria.

## 80s

**John McGowan '80** is the senior IT business development/talent resources employee with Apple-One Workforce Solutions. He and his wife, Carey, reside in Nolensville, Tennessee.

**Hope (Jorns) Heslop '81** is a pre-K teacher in Shiloh School District 85. She received an Emerson Excellence Teaching Award in 2014. She resides in Belleville.

**Christopher Honn '81** is the director of customer engagement multifamily for Fannie Mae. He resides in Woodridge.

**John Jellies, M.S. '81**, is a biology professor at Western Michigan University. He received the 2014-2015 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award from the university. He studies how the nervous system controls behavior. He resides in Mattawan, Michigan.

**Debra Roeschley, M.S. '81**, retired after 35 years as an Illinois public school teacher. Her son, **Jason Roeschley, M.A. '14**, teaches at International House in Aguascalientes, Mexico. She and her husband, John, reside in Flanagan.

**Brian Koch '83** is an IT programmer and analyst with the City of Phoenix in Arizona, where he resides.

**Elizabeth Petrovski '83** is a finance specialist with the U.S. Agency for International Development. She resides in Rome, Italy.

**William Prewett '83** is president of Chicago Fire and Burglar Detection, Inc. He resides in Glen Ellyn.

**W. Jean Yeung, M.A. '83**, is a professor of sociology and the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore. She is also director of family and population research at the school. Her work has appeared in many scholarly journals.

**Sharon (Muehlhauser) Jones '84** is a certified nutrition coach with Sharon Jones Wellness. She resides in Saint Peters, Missouri.

**Joseph Nasados '84** owns colinaelectricaltraining.com. He and his wife, Joy, are parents to a daughter. They reside in Gladewater, Texas.

**Nancy (Ettling) Schoon '84** is a teacher in District 110. She received an Emerson Excellence Teaching Award in 2014. She resides in Lebanon.

**Todd Reeser '85** is the director of athletics at Columbus State University. He and his wife, Janet, reside in Columbus, Georgia.

**Ray Wallace, D.A. '85**, is the chancellor of Indiana University Southeast in New Albany, Indiana, where he resides.

**Marty Koehler '86** is vice president of Assurance, an independent insurance brokerage. He is a CPA and resides in Wheaton.

**Marc Pasteris '86** is the vice president of finance and facilities/CFO for Eureka College. He and his wife, Carol, reside in Peoria Heights.

**Scott Cant '88** is the executive director of College of Diplomates of the American Board of Orthodontics. He resides in Maryland Heights, Missouri.

**Kathleen Case '88** is an assistant clinical director at Hammitt School. She and her husband, Stanley, reside in Towanda.

**Lucia Adriana Mino Garcés, M.S. '88**, is a Fullbright-LASPAU scholar working at the Unidad Educativa Julio Verne school in South America.

ca. She started an inclusive project at the school and works with special needs students. She resides in Ecuador.

**Deborah (Carter) Martin '88** is an interviewing and hiring officer with the Illinois Department of Human Services. She is also a paranormal investigator. She resides in Sherman.

**Yolanda Rocio '88** is vice president of human resources for CDK Global. She resides in Naperville.

**Brian Wojtczak '88** is general manager at Lacks Enterprises, Inc. He had served as the director of sales for the manufacturer. He and his wife, Frances, reside in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

**Elaine (Norem) Artman '89, M.S. '92**, is an associate professor in the Education Leadership Program at Mercer University. She received the 2014 Tift College of Education Cathryn Futral Excellence in Teaching Award. She resides in Rome, Georgia.

**Lorene Kennard '89** is director of the Morris Area Public Library. She resides in her hometown of Morris.

**Kirk Salmela, D.A. '89**, is a high school principal in Springfield, Colorado. He resides in Fort Collins, Colorado.

**Rhonda (Blemler) Simonson '89** is a staff analyst with State Farm Insurance Companies. She and her husband, Steve, reside in Bloomington.

## 90s

**Arnaud Marchais, MBA '90**, is a supply director with Timac Agro Sas. He resides in Bordeaux, France.

**Alan Mickelson '90** is managing director of the federal tax group with KPMG in Austin, Texas.

**Craig Adkins '91** is the director of hedge fund manager research for DiMeo Schneider and Associates in Chicago. His wife, **Jill (Paliakas) '89**, is a special education teacher in the Valley View District in Romeoville. They are the parents of three children and reside in Orland Park.

**Kristine Dulski '92** is an operations analyst with Herndon Capital Management. She resides in Lithia Springs, Georgia.

**Kristen (Bava) Kucharski '92** is a features writer and columnist for *Glancer Magazine*. She has inter-

He and his wife, Peggy, reside in Bloomington.

**Mirielle (Rosenwinkel) Strasser '94** is a gifted specialist for William F. Murphy Elementary in Woodridge. She worked for 12 years as a pre-K teacher for DaVinci Academy



### Redbirds then and now

Long before she was dean of the College of Education, Sally (Bulkley) Pancrazio was a business teacher education major. Among her Illinois State memories are the times she spent with her Walker Hall roommates, who met in August of 1957. All went on to teach. They reconnected last fall, continuing their tradition of at least annual reunions. They are, from left, Linda (Webster) Bean '60, Granville; Lori (Mertz) Gruber '61, Riverside; Linda (Cunningham) Tyree, Lombard; and Pancrazio '60, Bloomington.

viewed Dan Aykroyd. She resides in Naperville.

**Ken Russell '92** is a controller with Motorola Mobility. He and his wife, Mary Sue, reside in Schaumburg.

**Jill (Wrench) Celaya '93** is a business analyst with State Farm Insurance Companies. She and her husband, James, reside in Bloomington.

**Jeffrey Hoffman '93** is a PlayStation representative with Sony Computer Entertainment America. He resides in Santa Clarita, California.

**Derek Trimble '93** is senior fleet manager of Auto Car, LLC. He resides in Goose Creek, South Carolina.

**Matt Koonce '94** is a manager at State Farm Insurance Companies.

in Elgin. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Aurora.

**Larry West '94** is senior director of healthcare and scientific practice at SmithBucklin. He resides in Chicago.

**Sue Henshon, M.S. '95**, teaches creative writing and composition at Florida Gulf Coast University. She has authored a young adult novel titled *Andy Lightfoot and the Time Warp*. She resides in Naples, Florida.

**Michelle Keene '96** is an admissions nurse at Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital. She resides in Jacksonville, Florida.

**Heather (Kauffman) Kile '96** is a risk manager at Johns Hopkins University's applied physics laboratory. She and her husband, John, reside in Laurel, Maryland.



# Redbird Legacy

Jackie (Lacke) Froelich transferred to campus in 1986, never envisioning how many Redbirds would eventually fill her family's tree. A physical education graduate, she was the first of three siblings to attend. Three spouses in the family are also graduates, including Jackie's husband, Jeff '87.

Although also an education major, Jeff and Jackie did not meet on campus. He was focused on industrial technology. Both are at Dwight High School, where Jeff teaches and Jackie works as a guidance counselor. They have two children, both of whom attend Illinois State.

Amy Froelich works at Pub II and is entering her last year as an elementary education major. She chose Illinois State in part for the Professional Development School experience. Her brother, Andy, just completed his freshman year in agribusiness. Both like the distance from home and knew their parents had enjoyed Illinois State.

The stories about campus came from beyond their parents, as Jackie's sister is a 1996 graduate. Jill (Lacke) Johannes majored in education. She works at Christ the King school in Springfield. Jill met Greg '96 while at ISU. A marketing major, he is in sales with Abbvie Pharmaceutical. They have three children and reside in Springfield.

Kevin Lacke, brother to Jackie and Jill, completed a marketing major in 2000. He is employed by Motorola and lives in Gilberts with his wife, Nicole, and their three children.

Another sister, Sue, also married a Redbird. Trevor Towns '88 studied applied geography. He works with North American Hoganas. The two reside in Windber, Pennsylvania, with their two sons.

From remembering special moments that include Homecoming events to just enjoying the Quad, Jackie notes that family members appreciate sharing an alma mater.

"Our home is definitely an ISU house. It's great fun to have such a strong campus connection," Jackie said, reflecting on how many memories are shared because so many family members are Redbirds.



Eight family members with a tie to Illinois State include, front row from left, Andy Froelich, Jill Johannes, Amy Froelich and Jackie Froelich. Back row from left are, Greg Johannes, Jeff Froelich, Kevin Lacke and Trevor Towns.

**James Baltrum '97** completed a master's in literature and a doctorate in American Literature. He is a literature and humanities professor in the College of Liberal Arts at Robert Morris University in Chicago. He and his wife, Ann, reside in Bolingbrook.

**Jason Bletzinger '97** is completing a doctorate through Capella University. He is an assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction at the Richland-Bean Blossom Community School Corporation. He and his wife, Kara, reside in Bloomington, Indiana.

**Jason Leppin '97** is vice president of the JourneyCare Foundation. He and his wife, Annie, reside in South Elgin.

**Amy (Brophy) Laughlin '98** is a kindergarten through sixth grade intervention teacher at Hansen School, Savanna School District in Anaheim, California. She has been named a 2015 Teacher of the Year.

She resides in Huntington Beach, California.

**Christopher Roe '99** is a program analyst with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Chicago.

**Enrico Washington '99** is a systems analyst with State Farm Insurance Companies. He and his wife, Monica, reside in Bloomington.

## 00s

**Shari Conditt '00** is a finalist for the 2015 Washington State Teacher of the Year after having been chosen as the 2015 ESD 112 Regional Teacher of the Year. She also received the American Historical Association's Nancy Roelker Mentorship Award in 2014. She and her husband, David, reside in Battle Ground, Washington.

**Holly (Wayland) Hall '00** is senior director of sales and marketing

with Meadows Mennonite Retirement Communities. She resides in Normal.

**Aja Holmes '00, M.S. '02**, completed a doctorate in educational leadership at Iowa State University. She received the Teaching in Excellence Award for outstanding teaching given to the top 10 percent of graduate students at the university. She is the senior associate director of residence life at Sacramento State University. She resides in Sacramento, California.

**Michele (Ayers) Phillips '00** is the director of human resources for Luther Oaks. Her husband, David

'01, '10, is a math teacher at Chidix Junior High School. They reside in Normal.

**Teresa (Begley) Stetler '00** is a technical specialist in retirement services at Lincoln Financial Group. She and her husband, Michael, are the parents of three children. Their daughter, Lena Cadence, was born in July 2014. They reside in McHenry.

**Timothy Tokuda '00** is vice president of field operations at Berkley Regional Specialty Insurance Company. He and his wife, Amie, reside in Chandler, Arizona.



## REGGIE READS

Check out a column dedicated to book reviews of work by alums at [IllinoisState.edu/Magazine](http://IllinoisState.edu/Magazine). Click on Reggie Reads.

**Samuel Elbert '01, '03**, is a Metamora Township High School teacher who coaches football and bass fishing teams. He and his wife, Jenna, are the parents of a son. Weston Joseph was born in June 2014. They reside in Metamora.

**Matthew Goodwin '01, M.S. '03**, is the director of Student Affairs at Cardinal Stritch University. He resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

**Cari (Rich) James '01** is the visiting assistant director of alumni engagement and special events for the College of Media at the University of Illinois. She and her husband, Kyle, reside in Urbana.

**Chris Patton '01** is senior grants specialist for National Science Foundation awards at the University of Illinois-Urbana. He and his wife, Kim, reside in Monticello.

**Anne (Blue) Siegler '01** taught art in the Chicago Public Schools and is now a stay-at-home mom. Her husband, **Jason '05**, works for Pizzano and Associates as the superintendent of the Chicago Park District. They are the parents of a son and reside in Chicago.

**Lauren Webb, M.S. '01**, is a speech language pathologist with the Los Angeles County Office of Education. She and her husband, David Elbaz, are the parents of a son. They reside in Playa Vista, California.

**Ryan Kurtz '02, M.S. '05**, is the vice president of internal communications for KCG Holdings. He resides in Chicago.

**Emily (Lamb) Normand, M.S. '02**, is an assistant professor in the Department of Communications at Lewis University in Romeoville. She and her husband, Russell, reside in Lockport.

**Adam Welling '02** is a relationship manager with the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. He and his wife, Lauren, are the parents of three children and reside in Breese.

**Andrea DeFrates Williams '02** is completing a master's degree at Miami University and participated in a global field course in Costa Rica as part of the program. She is a science teacher at Auburn School District 10 in Chatham.

**Amy (Dunn) Johnson '03** is a deputy with the Kane County Sheriff's Office. She and her husband, Kenneth, reside in Sugar Grove.

**Rebecca (Bosy) Johnston '03** is the library media specialist with Community Unit School District 201 in Westmont. She and her husband, Jason, are the parents of a son. Colin Robert was born March 2014. They reside in Bloomingdale.

**Melanie (Farrell) Lukacsy '03** completed a master's in educational leadership from Concordia University. She is an assistant principal with Waltham Elementary School in Utica. She and her husband, Louis, reside in LaSalle.

**Susan Megy, M.A. '03**, is a doctoral candidate at the National University of Ireland Galway. She works in humanitarian affairs for the United Nations. She resides in Washington, D.C.

**Robert Vodicka '03** is a senior associate at SEAF, a private equity fund that operates in emerging markets. He and his wife, Candace, are the parents of a daughter. Lainey Katherine was born in May 2014. They reside in Algonquin.

**Russell West '03** is completing an MBA. He is a recruiter and human resource manager for the YMCA of Metro Chicago, where he resides.

**Sarah (Zoss) Yeah '03** is a commercial underwriting associate with COUNTRY Financial. She and her husband, Doug, are the parents of a son. Noah was born in 2014. They reside in Morton.

**Adam (Corelli) Bellcorelli '04** is completing a master's in public administration at the University of Wisconsin and an internship with the Career Services Office on the campus. He and his wife, Nicole, reside in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

**Stacy (Swigert) Dillefeld '04** is a stay-at-home mom. Her husband, **Luke '06**, is an operational excellence leader at Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals in St. Louis. They are the parents of two children and reside in Fenton, Missouri.

**Gary Echelmeyer '04** is the resident assistant lighting director with the New York City Ballet at Lincoln Center. He is a freelance light-

ing designer in theater, opera and dance. He resides in Brooklyn, New York.

**Rachel (Ladage) Getz '04, M.S. '09**, is a special education teacher at Manual High School in Peoria Public Schools District 150. She

**Molly Beck '05** is the education reporter for the *Wisconsin State Journal* in Madison. She and her husband reside in Madison, Wisconsin.

**Amanda Campisi '05** was named Educator of the Year at Elrod



## Rekindling Watterson memories

Seven young women settled in as suite mates of Randolph 1A in Watterson Towers in 1994. They quickly established a friendship that continued beyond and despite distance. The ladies celebrated their 20-year friendship last fall with a campus visit and return to Watterson. They are, from left, Erin (Kidwell) Shumaker '97 of Champaign, Sue (Serbin) Kretschmer '96 of Huntley, Amy (Latham) McFarland '96 of Normal, Jody (Rodeffer) Robinson '98 of Peoria, Dana (Niemi) Scott '98 of Libertyville, Nicole (Nelson) Harrington '98 of Channahon, and Jessica (Krueger) Daily '96 of Denver, Colorado.

and her husband, Maxwell, reside in Elmwood.

**Julie (Fehrenbacher) McCoy '04, M.S. '06**, is the school nutrition director for District 87. She and her husband, Ryan, reside in Carlock.

**Patrick McKeivitt '04** is the director of operations at Shamrock Electric in Elk Grove Village. He is a certified PMP. He and his wife, Laura, are the parents of two children and reside in Arlington Heights.

**Amber (Vander Pluym) Rigsby '04** and her husband, **Michael '04**, started the Internet company DirtOnDirt.com. The website covers late-model dirt racing across the country. They reside in Bloomington.

**Callie (Truschke) Sealock '04** is a seventh grade special education teacher. She and her husband, Chad, reside in Rolling Meadows.

Elementary in Texas, where she teaches kindergarten. She resides in San Antonio, Texas.

**Patricia Conte '05** is the president of Fox Chapel Tours and Cruises. She and her husband, John, reside in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

**Audrey (Yates) Irias '05** is completing a master's in translation and interpreting at the University of Illinois. She is in her ninth year with Manatee School District in Bradenton, Florida, where she now teaches French. She and her husband, Robert, reside in Sarasota, Florida.

**Megan (Kocolowski) McKenna '05** is the event coordinator at the United Center. Her husband, **Patrick '04**, is an educational specialist in the Department of Psychiatry for NorthShore University HealthSys-



tems. They are the parents of two daughters and reside in Lombard.

**Ryan Meyer '05** is vice president of nonprofit and governmental lending for SunTrust Bank's central Florida region. He resides in Winter Park, Florida.

**Andre Miller '05** is a special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. He and his wife, Jamie, reside in O'Fallon.

**Amy (Scott) Parcell '05** teaches first grade at Maroa-Forsyth CUSD 2. She and her husband, Zachery, reside in Bloomington.

**Leigh (Toovey) Speed '05** teaches fifth grade at Chesapeake Public Schools. She and her husband, Aaron, reside in Suffolk, Virginia.

**Dana Almdale '06** is the assistant director of alumni relations at Loyola University Chicago. She resides in Chicago.

**Amelia Cearlock '06** is a behavioral health clinical coordinator with the Arizona Department of Child Safety. She resides in Tempe, Arizona.

**James Etzel, M.A. '06**, is director of the library at Arkansas Tech University. He resides in Russellville, Arkansas.

**Sarah Gerson '06** is an assistant professor at University of St. Andrews. She and her husband, Ross Vanderwert, reside in Schaumburg.

**Jilliam (Davidson) Hultgren '06** is a stay-at-home mom. Her husband, **James '06**, is an English teacher and instructional coach at Glenbard East High School. They are the parents of a son, Owen James, born in September 2014. They reside in Glendale, Heights.

**Courtney Klapperich '06** is an education specialist with the mycology/mycobacteriology laboratory at Mayo Clinic. She and her husband, Benjamin, reside in Rochester, Minnesota.

**Lacey (Sutton) Ritchart '06** is the director of marketing for Westminster Village. She and her husband, Travis, reside in Normal.



### Across the pond

Public relations graduate Jenna Anderson '07 enjoyed touring London last fall, where she Spread the Red and proudly displayed her ISU pride. She paused on the Princess Diana Memorial Walk for a photo with Paddington Bear. A resident of Colorado, Anderson is active as a volunteer in the Denver alumni network.

**Jaclyn Sabatino '06** is program manager for Wiley Global Education. She resides in Hanover Park.

**Brett Scholfield '06** is a national bank examiner with the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. He resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Brian Spicer '06** is the school psychologist for Maine Township High School District 207. He resides in Mount Prospect.

**Jennifer Stouffer '06** completed a master's in family-child nursing from St. Francis Medical Center College of Nursing. She is patient care manager for the pediatric intermediate unit at OSF St. Francis Medical Center. She is a part-time clinical faculty member with Mennonite College of Nursing. She resides in Peoria.

**Nicole Taft '06** works as merchandise manager at Barnes and Noble Booksellers. She is a writer under the pseudonym Nick Trevano. She has published a fantasy romance titled *Terpsichore's Daughter* and a science fiction novel titled *Advenae*. She resides in Blue Springs, Missouri.

**Christopher Anderson '07** is a high school teacher with Rockford Public Schools. He resides in Rockford.

**Kathleen Fitzgerald-Ellis '07** is a student success advisor with Black Hills State University. She and her husband, Trenton, reside in Spearfish, South Dakota.

**Sarah Franzen '07, M.S. '10**, is the development director for Habitat for Humanity of McLean County. She resides in Normal.

**Kyle Hack '07** completed a graduate degree in school psychology at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. He is a school psychologist in a West Aurora School District 129 middle school just outside of Chicago.

**William Malott '07** is a video editor at State Farm Insurance Companies. He and his wife, Clare, reside in Bloomington.

**Peter Orlowicz '07** is a general attorney for the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board. He and his wife, Martha, reside in Westchester.

**Casey (McKittrick) Seyller '07** completed a master's in special education from National Louis. She is a special education resource teacher in Hinsdale. She and her husband, David, reside in Plainfield.

**Katie Sparks '07** is the manager of consumer publishing at the American Academy of Pediatrics. She authored *Reality Natalie*, a

children's middle grade novel. She resides in Chicago.

**Linda Wastyn, Ph.D. '07**, is president of Wastyn and Associates. She is a visiting professional in the philanthropy communication program at the University of Iowa's School of Journalism and Mass Communication. She and her husband, Ron, reside in Port Byron.

**Brent Baxter '08** is a property claims supervisor with Pekin Insurance Company. He and his wife, Megan, reside in Geneva.

**Laban Cross, M.S. '08, Ph.D. '13**, teaches math at Tri-Valley High School. He and his wife, Lisa, reside in Bloomington.

**Dijon DeLaPorte, M.S. '08**, is the director of residence life at Buena Vista University in Iowa. His wife, **Becky Neary-DeLaPorte, M.S. '08**, is director of student activities and leadership at the school. They are the parents of twin boys. Avery and Elliot were born in July 2014. They reside in Storm Lake, Iowa.

**Rosanna Fugate '08** is completing an MBA at Harvard Business School. She resides in Boston, Massachusetts.

**Bernard Heine '08** is a manager at PricewaterhouseCoopers. He and his wife, Kaylee, reside in Germantown Hills.

**Jackie Jobst '08** is a certified meeting planner. She is the director of marketing and strategic partnerships with ConferenceDirect. She resides in Henderson, Nevada.

**Beth Mehlbaum '08** completed a master's in education. She is part of the administrative team at Easter Seals Therapeutic School and Center for Autism in Rockford, where she resides.

**Joshua Mohr '08** is event director for Red Frog events and a volunteer with Shelter Box. He worked in Nepal in 2014, setting up temporary shelters after devastating monsoons and floodwaters hit. He did training for the organization in London. He resides in Yorkville.

**Melissa (Hoebbel) Muldowney '08** is a strategic marketing manager at Kerry. She and her husband, **Timothy '08**, were married in September.

ber 2014. He is assistant general counsel with First Midwest Group. They reside in Loves Park.

**Heather Richardson '08, '10**, is program specialist for statewide student initiatives at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy. She resides in Aurora.

**Aimee Schaefer '08** is a continuing care counselor with Timberline Knolls. She resides in Chicago.

**Samantha Strimpel '08** is program director/registered dietitian with Physician's Choice Wellness. She resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Jessica Barnes-Pietruszynski, Ph.D. '09**, is an associate English professor at West Virginia State University. She and her husband, **Jeff '06**, are the parents of two daughters and reside in Poca, West Virginia.

**Ryan Blonn '09** is the manager of international internal audit with Aldi Sud. He resides in Aurora.

**Elizabeth (Kolbuck) Del Toro '09** is a social studies and reading teacher at Epiphany School. She and her husband, Kevin, reside in Clarendon Hills.

**Elizabeth Foste, M.S. '09**, is career and outreach coordinator at University of Wisconsin-Madison. She resides in Oregon, Wisconsin.

**Kristina (Rapps) Frawley '09** teaches eighth grade science at Belleville School District 118. She and her husband, Joshua, reside in Fairview Heights.

**Rachel Gierman-Vella '09** is a special education teacher with Barrington CUSD 220. She and her husband, Matthew, reside in Palatine.

**John Learned '09** is a funeral director and embalmer at Calvert and Metzler Memorial Home. He and his wife, **Nicole (Simmons) '02, '08**, reside in Normal.

**Katie (Giberson) Mayer '09** is an IT analyst at John Deere. She and her husband, Dan, reside in Le Claire, Iowa.

**Jillian Meyers '09** works in corporate buying for ALDI, Inc. She resides in Willowbrook.

**Carl Oviedo '09** is a corrections officer with Cook County Sheriff Office. He and his wife, Allison, reside in La Grange.

**Robin (Danielson) Pond '09** completed a master's of medical science in physician assistant studies at Midwestern University in Downers Grove. She is a physician assistant in internal medicine at Oaklund Medical Group. She and her husband, Christopher, reside in Glen Ellyn.

**Philip Rudd, M.M. '09**, is completing a doctorate in orchestral conducting at the University of Iowa. He completed five years of teaching orchestra at Wheaton North High School. He resides in Villa Park.

**Susan (Beuth) Springer '09** teaches English at Mt. Pulaski High School. She and her husband, Brian, reside in Minier.

**Trina Steinmaker, M.A. '09, M.S. '10**, is a vocational evaluator at Florida State College at Jacksonville. She resides in Fernandina Beach, Florida.

## 10s

**Tiffanie Brown '10, '11**, is a PE teacher with the Independence School District. She resides in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Mitchell Coonradt '10** teaches history and is the boys' head cross country coach at Manual Academy. He and his wife, Kayla, reside in Canton.

**Michael Detmer '10** is a music therapist with Norton Healthcare and a lecturer with the University of Louisville. He resides in Louisville, Kentucky.

**Ross Frawley '10** is completing a master's in acting at Florida Atlantic University. He resides in Boca Raton, Florida.

**Amelia King '10** is a family teacher at Mooseheart Child City and School. She resides in Grant Park.

**Edward Kipp '10** is a sales consultant with AssetMark, Inc. He resides in Chicago.

**Benjamin Maas, M.S. '10**, is an assistant professor at Buena Vista University. He resides in Storm Lake, Iowa.

**Katherine McClain '10** is a risk adjustment coordinator with Dean Health Plan. She resides in Madison, Wisconsin.

**Allison (Kriauciunas) McGreevy '10** is the marketing manager in charge of lead generation for GrubHub. She and her husband, **Michael '10**, reside in Downers Grove.

**Wesley McKinney '10** is a musician performing as a dueling pianist with Chicago Dueling Pianos and Howl at the Moon's traveling show, Howl2Go. He performs solo on Chicago stages and in 2014 released his debut single, "Love in its Prime." He resides in Chicago.



### Fantastic football fans

The 2014 football team made school history earlier this year with ISU's first appearance at a NCAA Division I Football Championship game. The Redbirds took on North Dakota State in Texas in front of faithful fans. Reggie joined the ISU crowd in pre-game activities.

**Meagan (Sansone) Meneou '10** is a special education teacher with Eisenhower Cooperative. She and her husband, Kevin, reside in Downers Grove.

**Victoria Moré '10** co-founded the Really Really Free Market and is the curator of digital humanities at the McLean County Museum of History. She and her husband, Kelby, reside in Bloomington.

**Laken Rippentrop '10** is a recovery specialist with Rosecrance Mulberry Center. She spent two years in Kenya as a member of the Peace Corps. She resides in Rockford.

**Danielle (Hernandez) Rose '10** is a commodity trader with ADM Grain Company. She and her husband, Tyler, reside in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**Sarah Wannemacher '10** is an agency recruiter with State Farm Insurance Companies. She resides in Fort Collins, Colorado.

**LaDonna Watts '10** is a recruitment and selection analyst with Cook County Health and Hospital System. She resides in Richton Park.

**Julianne Zajac '10** completed a master's in scene painting specialization from California Institute of the Arts. She paints in two scene shops in the Los Angeles area,

RRPS, Inc. and Scenic Highlights. She resides in Simi Valley, California.

**Emily (Beukema) Conrad '11, M.S. '13**, is a membership assistant with the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. She and her husband, John, reside in Chicago.

**Colin Daly '11** is an environmental engineer at Natural Resource Technology in Chicago, where he resides.

**Kelsey (Coker) Daniels '11** is an ESL instructor with Kaplan International Colleges. She and her husband, Don, reside in Goleta, California.

**Matthew Fuller, Ph.D. '11**, is an assistant professor of higher education administration at Sam Houston State University and is assistant



dean of assessment in the College of Education. He resides in Montgomery, Texas.

**Jory Harris '11** is an applications specialist at Perten Instruments in Springfield.

**Julie (Boesen) Higgins '11** is the band director at Naperville Community Unit School District 203. She and her husband, Sean, reside in Aurora.

**Samantha (Szczynder) Kirkton '11** is the guidance counselor at Deland-Weldon High School. She and her husband, James, reside in Cham-paign.

**Joseph Lesiak '11** is a corporate trainer for Command Transportation in Skokie. He resides in Tinley Park.

**Megan (Frantik) Pace '11** is a critical care nurse at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital. Her husband, **George '11**, is global marketing manager for SteelSeries. They reside in Woodridge.

**Carlie Premo '11** is completing her master's in ESL at Concordia University. She teaches chemistry at Lincoln Way North High School in Frankfort. She resides in Elmhurst.

**Jason Ross '11** is an IT support analyst for the College of Business at ISU. He and his wife, Alyssa reside in Normal.

**Amy Sneed '11** teaches sixth grade at Imagine Prep Surprise. She and her husband, Timothy, were married in 2014 with many fellow graduates present. They reside in Arizona.

**Rich Eckert, M.S. '12**, is associate athletic director for external relations at Marian University. He and his wife, **Ashley (Kuhlmann) '06**, were married in June 2014. They reside in Found Du Lac, Wisconsin.

**Katherine Gavin '12** is an athletic trainer with Midwest Orthopaedic Center in Peoria. She resides in Morton.

**Mackenzi Harmon, M.S. '12**, is a senior research analyst for State Farm Insurance Companies. She resides in Saybrook.

**Brianna Kuhn '12** is the assistant director of new student programs



**Love's Labour's Lost**

**Don't miss Alumni Night at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival! Saturday July 11**

Theater tours, buffet dinner, and a performance of *Love's Labour's Lost*. Learn more and register at [Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Shakespeare](http://Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Shakespeare).

at Radford University. She resides in Radford, Virginia.

**Terese Marinelli '12** is a special education teacher in Rockford Public School District 205. She resides in Rockford.

**Heather (Fahrenkrug) Mitchell '12** is an administrative assistant with Heritage Enterprises, Inc. She and her husband, Trevor, reside in Normal.

**Ramo Stott '12, M.S. '14**, is residence life coordinator at Louisiana State University. He continues research at ISU with College of Education faculty to study the CSPA graduate program. He resides in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**Tobias Wall '12** is the crime and breaking news reporter at the Belleville *News-Democrat*. He resides in Belleville.

**Kiley Bliss, Ph.D. '13**, is a pediatric psychology postdoctoral fellow at Munroe-Meyer Institute. He resides in Omaha, Nebraska.

**Katie Chaffin '13** is an agricultural educator and FFA advisor at Astoria CUSD 1. She resides in Easton.

**Justyne Coplon '13** is a Patterson Medical sales representative. She resides in Schaumburg.

**Michelle Eggemeyer '13** is lead pre-school teacher at Milestones Early

Learning Center. She resides in Normal.

**Jamie (Kennett) Kotovsky '13** is a music teacher. She and her husband, Cameron, were married in May 2014. They reside in Maquoketa, Iowa.

**Sarah Lybik '13** is a shareholder services representative with Harbor Capital Advisors, Inc. She resides in Buffalo Grove.

**Michael Mace '13** is a lead security architect at MaceTech Security Solutions. He resides in Panama City, Florida.

**Tom McCulley, Ph.D. '13**, is chair of English and reading at Heartland Community College. He and his spouse, Ron Frazier, reside in Bloomington.

**Meghan Radozevic '13** is a graduate assistant at Eastern Michigan University. She resides in Peoria.

**Stephen Reid '13** is an elementary music teacher with the Osceola County School District. He and his wife, Helen, reside in Kissimmee, Florida.

**Thomas Reuter '13** is a staff accountant with Shepard Schwartz and Harris. He and his wife, Yulia Gritsuk, reside in Chicago.

**Ryan Reynolds '13** is a personal trainer at GrandeFIT. He resides in Palatine.

**Emily Bornhoff '14** teaches physical education at Cesar Chavez Elementary School in Oklahoma City. She resides in Yukon, Oklahoma.

**Tim Fudala '14** is a distribution generalist with McMaster-Carr. He resides in Elk Grove Village.

**Jamie Guerrettaz, M.S. '14**, is a program supervisor for the family centered services program of Children's Home and Aid in Bloomington. She and her husband, Blake, reside in Heyworth.

**Sean Higgins '14** teaches physics at Illinois Prairie School District 204. He and his wife, Julie, reside in Aurora.

**Peter Marquardt '14** is a registered nurse at MetroSouth Medical Center. He resides in Chicago.

**Jennifer Stewart '14** is an industrial hygiene consultant with Health Safety and Environmental Solutions, Inc. She resides in Bloomington.

**Wade Tharp, M.A. '14**, is an archaeologist with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. He resides in Carmel, Indiana.

**Marissa (Webb) Tonkovic, M.F.A. '14**, is a photographer with Rock Valley College Starlight Theatre. She and her husband, **Michael '14**, were married in July 2014. They reside in Rockford.

## Our troops

**Lt. Col. Kevin Lockett '83** served as Wing Chaplain of the 354th Fighter Wing at Eielson Air Force Base. He is now Deputy Command Chaplain with the U.S. Air Force Global Strike Command at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana. He and his wife, Peggy, reside on the base.

**Shawn McConnell '89** retired after 30 years in the Army. He served as a reserve soldier until beginning active duty in 2001. He is now employed by the Veterans Association and resides in Plainfield.

**Michael Richeson '09** is a U.S. Navy Petty Officer Second Class. He resides in Hawaii.

# In memory

## Faculty/Staff

Paul E. Baumgartner '98,  
Information Services; 10/14  
Donald D. Braasch '83, Industrial  
Technology; 11/14  
Alma B. Bremer, Home  
Economics; 11/14  
Valeria L. Bridson, Clinical  
Experience; 11/14  
Marian J. Carroll, Milner Library;  
10/14  
Eleanor J. Hall '51, Dining  
Services; 12/14  
Carolyn R. (Randolph) McKenna,  
'74, M.S. '77, Clinical Experience;  
10/14  
Vivian R. (Tasker) Nothdurft,  
Special Education; 1/15  
Harry A. Thiel Jr., *Vidette*; 12/14  
Mary C. Tucker, Curriculum and  
Instruction; 11/14  
Avonell G. (Pitts) Van de Merkt,  
Personnel; 10/14

## 30s

Dorothy W. Johnson '33, '37; 1/15  
Esther M. (Boos) Campbell, '34;  
11/14  
Jean A. Kilbourn '37; 6/14  
Geraldine (Dooley) Meeker '38;  
11/14  
Mary E. (Pollitt) Bump '39, '57;  
12/14  
Gertrude A. (Bickenbach) Clapper  
'39; 12/14

## 40s

Frances "Melba" (Whitacre)  
Anderson '40, '73; 12/14  
Jean L. (Butler) Keller '40; 1/15  
Marian (Swank) Shields '40; 8/14  
Marjorie L. Swayne '40; 11/14  
Louise (Bane) Croft '41, '45; 12/14  
Harriet E. Jacquat '41; 12/14  
Virginia L. Jones '41; 12/14  
Mildred I. (Watson) Perry '41, '46;  
12/14  
Louise A. Williamson '41; 6/13  
Mary T. (Salmon) Harris '42; 12/14  
Clyde Meachum '43; 1/15  
Shirley M. (Eimen) Miller '43, '74;  
11/14

Mona L. (Eisenhower) Birong '44;  
1/15  
Doris I. (Foley) Lovell '45; 12/14  
Mary C. (Porzelius) Schmucker  
Augspurger '47; 11/14  
Shirley J. (Dehm) Peecken '49; 12/14  
G. Elaine Watke '49; 11/14

## 50s

George R. Weber '50, M.S. '59; 2/15  
William M. Cotter '51; 12/14  
Frances M. Kain '51; 12/14  
Emil Morsch '51; 1/15  
Betty L. (Humphrey) Trussell '51;  
11/14  
Margaret E. (Cullick) Tyler '51;  
2/05  
Marilyn (Scherrer) Moneyhun  
'52; 1/15  
Nancy J. (Brown) Thomley '52,  
M.S. '68; 11/14  
Muriel R. Walker '52; 1/14  
June C. (Wittmis) Wellenreiter '52,  
M.S. '70; 12/14  
Carolyn M. (Sommer) Zehr '52;  
7/14  
Frances (Coan) Zehr '52; 6/14  
Vearnealure A. (Siddall) Holliday  
'53; 10/14  
Joan C. (Costello) Turnbull '53,  
'55; 10/14  
William Cote '54, M.S. '55; 11/14  
Mary L. (Lange) Ruhe '54; 12/14  
Charles Jaeger '55, M.S. '61; 9/14  
Alice (Dozier) Darr '56; 8/14  
Dwane R. Houser '56; 12/14  
Carol (Ensign) Barnhart '57; 1/15  
Robert N. Jager '57; 4/14  
Oren R. Schaab '57, M.S. '63; 12/14  
Alta (Snyder) Adamson '58; 10/14  
Sandra K. (Williams) Smith '59;  
11/14

## 60s

James L. Bernier '60, M.S. '64;  
11/14  
James M. Dineen '60; 11/14  
Lee Handley '60, M.S. '65; 12/14  
Lois E. (Winker) Miller '60; 5/14  
Charles F. Rolinski '60; 11/14  
Duncan B. MacGregor, M.S. '61;  
12/14  
Carol A. (McDermott) Johnson '62,  
M.S. '65; 1/15

Donald Foster '63, M.S. '64; 1/15  
Jay R. Harman '63, M.S. '64; 11/14  
Judith M. (Ackerman) Oyer '63;  
11/14  
David B. Barton '64; 12/14  
Ethel J. Boward '64; 11/14  
Evelyn Cavanaugh '64; 9/14  
Evalynn "Eve" (Schmitz)  
Chonowski '64; 11/14  
Jon R. Johnson '64; 1/15  
Richard W. Kamka '64; 8/14  
Bill O'Neill '64, M.S. '66; 10/14  
Marion "Si" K. Sizemore, M.S. '64;  
12/14  
Laura L. (Hoffman) Stokes '64,  
M.S. '82; 10/14  
Wendy R. (Wrigley) Boatright '65,  
M.S. '88; 11/14  
J. Clifford Curley '65; 7/14  
Karen K. (Mishler) Gatlin '65, M.S.  
'69; 1/15  
Mary K. (Lipke) Miller '65; 1/15  
Dorellyn "De" L. (Taylor) Sheldon  
'65; 1/15  
Barbara L. (Maziarz) Eckard '67;  
9/14  
James M. Keefe, M.S. '67; 12/14  
Alan L. Hartwig '68; 9/14  
Laszlo Hudra, M.S. '68; 10/14

Janice E. (Curry) Miglin '68; 1/15  
Terry R. Park, M.A. '68; 11/14  
Gail L. Watrous '68; 9/14  
Isabel (Smith) Lochbaum '69;  
12/14  
Sue A. McNabb '69; 9/14  
Paul A. Seymour '69; 12/14

## 70s

Charles "Kurt" Barrow '70; 11/14  
Matthew C. Brashinger III '70;  
12/14  
Mark W. Johnson '70, M.S. '71;  
12/14  
George K. Knudsen '70; 10/14  
Jimmy C. Kraft, M.S. '70; 2/15  
Raymond L. Lows, Ph.D. '70; 12/14  
Larry R. McMahon '70, '90; 10/14  
Thomas E. Mortier, M.S. '70; 10/14  
Grace M. (Sierzega) Radowski '70;  
9/14  
Nan E. (Shoger) Rockwell '70;  
11/14  
Wilma (Wesseling) Schuringa,  
M.A. '70; 1/15  
Marvin C. Steege '70; 12/14  
Roger W. Gerencir '71; 10/14  
Carolyn J. (Graunke) Hendon, M.S.  
'71; 10/14



## Three easy ways to submit your information

- 1) Go online to **Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/ClassNotes** and click on "class notes." Information submitted using this method will also be posted online.
- 2) Email your news to **sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu**.
- 3) Mail your news to Class Notes, Illinois State University, Alumni Relations, Campus Box 3100, Normal, IL 61790-3100. Please include your graduation year, major, maiden name when applicable, and daytime phone number for verification purposes. News releases and information from published news clippings may also be used. Engagements and pregnancies will not be published.

For additional information, contact Alumni Relations at (309) 438-2586 or (800) 366-4478, or by email at [alumni@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:alumni@IllinoisState.edu).



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# Thanks to you!

Gene Jontry '58 pays attention to details. His meticulous form at the free throw line sealed a 94 percent free throw average—a Redbird record that still stands. As a Central Illinois educator, coach and superintendent for 45 years, he made certain programs ran without a glitch so students could soar.

And yet, Jontry lost count of how long and how much he and his wife, Diane (Curtis) '66 have invested in the University. Realizing that their first gift was made in 1969 when the two were early in their marriage with their first of five children surprised both loyal alums.

That's because their focus remains on ISU's people and programs, which they continue to faithfully support. As a health and physical education graduate and student-athlete, Gene backs Athletics and the School

of Kinesiology and Recreation. He also helped establish an endowment to honor his former coach, James Collie. Diane earned a business teacher education degree and gladly gives to the College of Business.

Both so appreciated their campus experience that they also invest their time. From roles in Senior Professionals and Athletics to the Alumni Association and the Foundation board, it's impossible to miss how the Jontrys have proven their passion for Illinois State.

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## Another Normal day

The shops, restaurants and theater in Uptown Normal are within a few blocks of ISU's east campus boundary. Students and faculty are increasingly drawn to the renovated area that now includes University Galleries and an expanded Amtrak station. Criminal Justice Sciences Distinguished Professor Ralph Weisheit paused with his dog to greet students, from left, Krista Bicer, Patrick Barrera and Rahgene Hoard, as they all enjoyed a leisurely afternoon.

